



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

### Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

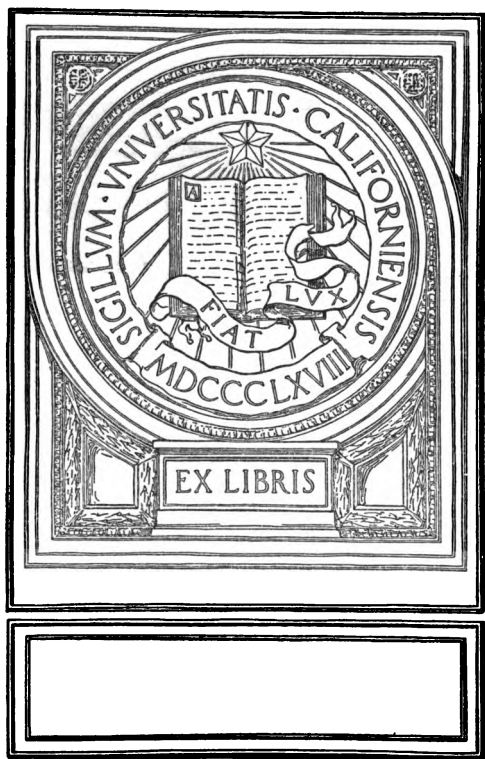
### About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

UC-NRLF



B 4 567 368



First Edition

PRESENTATION COPY

Mr. John Bunnett  
with the respect  
of the Author.

My dear Mr. Jones  
I have just received  
your letter of the 10th.

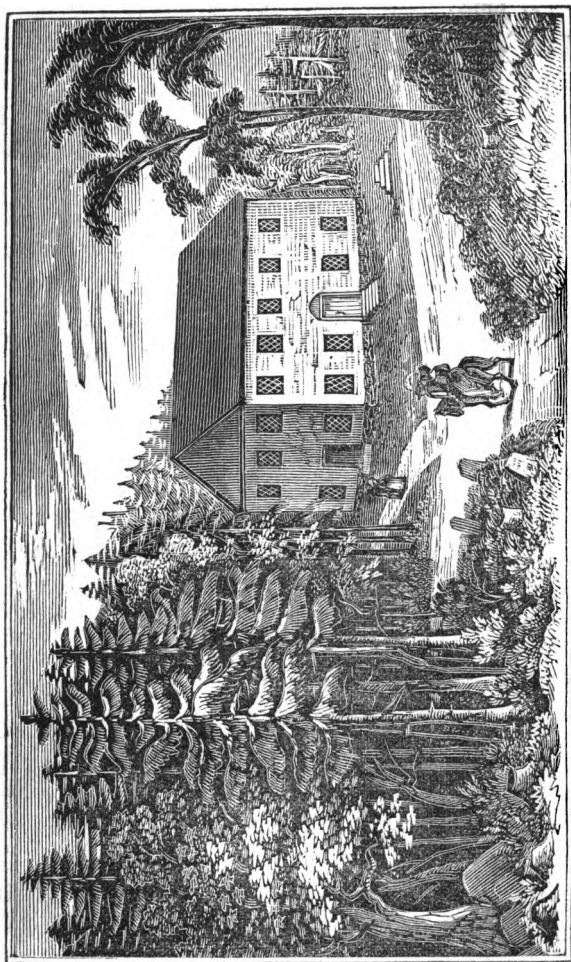








WORCESTER NORTH-HALF (HOLDEN) MEETING-HOUSE — 1737.



“50 feet long; 40 wide; and 22 between the joyns.” See *page* 28.

“That noted House.” See *page* 150.

✓  
THE

# HISTORY OF HOLDEN,

MASSACHUSETTS,

1667—1841.

---

BY SAMUEL C. DAMON.

---

1841.

---

**WALLACE AND RIPLEY—PRINTERS,  
WORCESTER, MASS.**

160

F74  
H57D2

TO  
**THE CITIZENS OF HOLDEN,**  
THIS VOLUME  
CONTAINING  
A  
**HISTORY**  
OF THE TOWN  
PRINCIPALLY WRITTEN WITH AN EYE  
UPON THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS,  
IS RESPECTFULLY  
INSCRIBED BY  
THE AUTHOR.

M272171

THE HISTORY OF HOLY  
THE HISTORY  
HOLY  
“WHEN AT THE FIRST I TOOK MY PEN IN HAND,  
THUS FOR TO WRITE, I DID NOT UNDERSTAND  
THAT I AT ALL SHOULD MAKE A LITTLE BOOK  
IN SUCH A MODE.”—*John Bunyan*.

# INDEX.

---

- Act Incorporating Holden, 29, 69, 70. Andrews, Rev. Elisha, 108, 113.  
     "    "    Worcester, 24. Anniversary, Centennial, 4—16.  
 Adams, Samuel, 42, 59. Association, Missionary, 115.  
 Admiration for Ancestors, 35. Avery, Rev. Joseph, 40, 50, 55, 57,  
 Affairs, Military, 136. 58, 59, 106.  
 Bardwell, Rev. Horatio, 102, 106, Belnap, Rev. A. 114.  
     115. Bigelow, John, 81.  
 Chenery, Doct. Isaac, 60, 133. Coleman, Rev. Dr. 30.  
     "    "    Thaddens, 133. Covenant of Chh. 101, 104.  
 Church, Cong. 33, 71, 72, 100—107. "    Town, 49.  
     "    Baptist, 108—114. Clerks, Town, 93.  
 Davis, Rev. Joseph, 32, 38, 40, 106. Deed, Indian 1st, 63, 64.  
     "    Gov. John, 35. "    "    2d, 65, 65.  
     "    Isaac, Esq. 14, 15. "    Hon. John Hancock's, 56.  
 Deacons, Cong. chh. 107. Dodd, John, Esq. 129.  
 Delegates Prov. Cong. 99. Donations to Rev. Mr. Avery, 50, 51.  
 Earthquake in Holden, 39, 40. Estabrook, Col. James, 15, 16.  
 Effects of Rev. War, 52, 53. Everett, Gov. 36.  
 Emigration, 143. "    Rev. Sam'l. 114.  
 Faith, Articles, Cong. chh. 103. Factories, 145, 146, 147.  
     "    "    Bap. chh. 110.  
 Gospel, Its support, 32. Graduates, College, 130.  
 Gookin, Daniel, 20 23, 64, 66. Grenadiers, 137, 138.  
 Halves, Wor. N. and S. 20. Henchman, Daniel, 37.  
 Hancock, Gov. 56. Hills, 127.  
 Haven, S. F. Esq. 10—13. Holden, Samuel Esq. 30 31.  
     "    Rev. Joseph, 59. Houses, Meeting, 28, 55, 113, 150.  
 Indians, 21, 22. Justices of Peace, 129.  
 Lafayette, 48, 147. Lime Lot, 25, 26.  
 Land French, 52, 53. Lincoln, William Esq. 16, 23 76.

- Man, Blind, 118.  
 Manufactures, 145, 146, 147.  
 Marshall, Rev. Thomas, 112, 113.  
 Masters, Post, 133.  
 Masonry, 135.  
 Organization, Town, 19.  
     " Cong. 32, 71.  
 Paine, Rev. Wm. P. 13, 107.  
 Papers, old, 150, 151.  
 Pastors, Cong. chh. 106, 107.  
     " Bap. " 113, 114.  
 Perry, John, 108.  
 Rebellion, Shays 53, 54, 55, 81—91.  
 Rice Jonas, 25.  
 Representatives, 100.  
 Sampson, Deborah, 49.  
 Selectmen, 93—96.  
 Schools, 139, 140, 141.  
 Settlement, First, 29.  
 Sermon, Rev. Mr. Davis's, 38, 39.  
 Temperance societies, 148, 149.  
 Thieves, Society for Detecting, 124, 125.  
 Valuations, 144.  
 War, Rev. 40—52.  
     " French and Indian, 33, 34, 36, 37.  
 Waters, Rev. George, 114.  
 Meeting, First Town, 19.  
 Mellen, Rev. John, 39.  
 Millenium, 119.  
 Missionaries, 131, 132.  
 Music, chh. 56, 152, 153, 153.  
 Organization Bap. chh. 109.  
 Otis, James, 42, 51.  
 Physicians, 133, 134.  
 Pollard, Rev. A. 114.  
 Population, 142, 143.  
 Prices Established, 50.  
 Protest, 85, 91.  
 Report to Gen. Court, 20, 21.  
 Resolutions, Revolutionary, 43—46.  
 Rivers, 128.  
 Shays, Daniel, 54, 76—80.  
 Soldiers, Revolutionary, 75, 148.  
 Spring, 118, 119.  
 Style, Old and New, 29.  
 Things in General, 148.  
 Topography, 126.  
 Treasurers, Town, 98, 99.  
 Walker, Rev. John, 113, 114.  
 Washington's Death, 57.  
 Winthrop, Col. Adam, 27.  
 Wright, Judah, 6, 116—124.

AN  
**HISTORICAL ADDRESS,**

**DELIVERED AT**

**HOLDEN, MASS.,**

**MAY 4TH, 1841,**

**THE FIRST CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
OF THE MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION  
OF THE TOWN;**

**WITH NOTES AND AN APPENDIX.**

---

**BY SAMUEL C. DAMON.**

---

**WORCESTER:  
WALLACE AND RIPLEY, PRINTERS:  
1841.**





# PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS

## FOR THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

THE CITIZENS OF HOLDEN, agreeably to a Notice, assembled at the Town Hall, 7 o'clock, P. M., November 30, 1840, to take into consideration the expediency of celebrating the first Centennial Anniversary of the Town of Holden.

COL. SAMUEL DAMON was chosen Chairman, and CHARLES CHAFFIN, Secretary of the meeting. After deliberating upon the subject, a unanimous vote was passed, to celebrate the First Centennial Anniversary of the Town. The following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to make the necessary arrangements for the anniversary exercises :—Samuel Damon, Charles Chaffin, Paul Davis, William Metcalf, Jonathan Rice, Silas M. Hubbard, Lemuel Fiske, Silas Flagg, Jason Mann, Samuel Foster, John Davis, and James Winch.

A vote was then passed to invite Mr. Judah Wright to join this Committee:

December 14, 1840. At 7 o'clock, P. M. the above committee convened, with some of the citizens, when the subject was discussed—whether the citizens would celebrate January 9, 1841, the centennial anniversary of the act incorporating the town, or May 4, 1841, being one hundred years since the municipal organization of the town, by the choice of Town Officers. The latter day was decided upon by the meeting, as the most convenient and proper.

The committee of arrangements invited the Rev. William P. Paine to deliver an address suitable for the occasion. He declined to accept the invitation in consequence of his arduous duties as a Pastor.

The invitation was then given to Mr. Samuel C. Damon, a native of the town, and member of Andover Theological Seminary. Mr. Damon, having signified his willingness to accept the invitation, the committee of arrangements appointed a sub-committee,—Samuel Damon, Paul Davis, and Charles Chaffin, to assist Mr. Damon, in searching for information touching the early history of the Town.

March 30.—7 o'clock, P. M. the committee met at the Town Hall, to complete their arrangements, in regard to the coming Anniversary.

### **CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.**

**THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY** of the municipal organization of Holden, will be celebrated by the citizens of the said town, on *Tuesday, the fourth day of May next.*

**An Address** will be delivered at 11 o'clock, A. M., by **Mr S. C. DAMON.**

Citizens of other towns, and especially such as have formerly been inhabitants of Holden, are invited to be present, and participate in the exercises of the occasion.

**A Dinner** will be provided at the Town Hall, by **S. Davis.**

**By order of the Committee of Arrangements.**

**Holden, April 23, 1841.**

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AT HOLDEN.

---

*(Extract from the National Ægis, Worcester, May 19.)*

---

THE first century since HOLDEN, in Worcester County, was established as a town, by the election of municipal officers according to the provisions of the acts of the Great and General Court of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, was completed on May 4, 1841. The citizens, desirous of honoring the memory of the founders of their community, and of noticing in an appropriate manner an anniversary so interesting, had made arrangements for a public festival on the occasion.

The day was remarkable in the climate of New England. Snow had fallen during the preceding week to unusual depth, and the white drifts and beds remained along the borders and covered the little hollows of the fields, and although the sun shone bright, the north-west wind was chilled with the breath of winter. If we may trust to the records of former time, an hundred years ago, May was like a summer month, and an old diary states, that on the day of the old style then, which corresponded with the fourth of May now, trees were budding, flowers were springing, and windows were thrown open to admit the warm sun.\*

---

\* On Tuesday, May 4, 1841, the thermometer stood thus at Hospital Hill, in Worcester: at sunrise, 33 deg. : 2 P. M. 50 deg. : at sunset, 47 deg.

The citizens collected at an early hour to join in the solemnities and festivities of the anniversary. At 11 o'clock of the forenoon, a procession was formed at the house of Col. SAMUEL DAMON, under the direction of the Committee of Arrangements named below :

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

Samuel Damon, Charles Chaffin, Silas Flagg, Lemuel Fiske, Paul Davis, John Davis, William Metcalf, Samuel Foster, Silas M. Hubbard, James Winch, Jason Mann, Jonathan Rice, Judah Wright.

The arrangement of the Procession was under the direction of the following gentlemen, who officiated as Marshals.

MARSHALS.

Chenery Abbott, Le Baron Putnam, Joab S. Holt, Charles L. Knowlton, Ethan Davis, Nathan Howe, William Howe, Sparrow Crosby, James S. Moore.

First went "The Military Band" from the adjoining town of Paxton, a fine body of musicians, conducted by Mr. Thomas Ward and Mr. J. B. Allyer, their leaders.

A most interesting feature in the ceremonies of the day, was the attendance of the ladies of Holden, and of some of the dames and damsels of other towns, who marched to the meeting-house.

They were followed by the citizens of Holden, and their guests.

The church was filled before the solemn exercises of the occasion commenced, with a large assembly.

After appropriate music by the Paxton band, the following Hymn, composed by Mr. Judah Wright, a venerable citizen of Holden, seventy years of age, suffering under the infirmity of blindness from infancy, was sung by a choir of more than an hundred singers, led by Col. Samuel Stratton.

## HYMN—By JUDAH WRIGHT.

Let us our grateful voices raise,  
To celebrate Jehovah's praise,—  
Our fathers trusted in his care,  
And we his richest blessings share.

When we a hundred years review,  
We see the efforts of a few  
Increasing, till a rising Town  
Does their judicious labors crown.

Dark forests from the view recede,  
And herds and flocks in safety feed,  
And plenty crowns a cheerful home,  
Where prowling wolves were wont to roam.

The active, hardy, wise, and brave  
Have reached their common home—the grave ;  
And beauty, once the source of pride,  
Has long since mouldered by their side.

The ravages which time hath made,  
Teach us that all on earth must fade ;  
Then let our best affections rise,  
To solid joys beyond the skies.

Though nothing here can long endure,  
The throne Eternal stands secure,  
And there we may repose our trust,  
Nor dread the summons, "*dust to dust.*"

An impressive and eloquent prayer was then offered by the Rev. Horatio Bardwell, formerly clergyman of Holden, during six years a missionary in India, and now minister of the Gospel at Oxford, in Worcester County.

The address of the Rev. Samuel C. Damon was a faithful, able, and interesting review of the prominent events in the history of the town during the last century. In clear, simple, and persuasive manner, he related the trials, toils, and hardships of the early planters—explained the causes which induced them to go out from the ancient colony of Worcester—narrated their exertions during the wars with the French and Indians, which disturbed the people of New England—referred to the spirited resolutions and acts of the citizens in the bright period of the revolution—counted the soldiers who fought

the battles of freedom during the long war of independence, and traced the progress of the town in its march of prosperity through the hundred years which have rolled onward since the organization.

Of the high merit's of Mr. Damon's Address, it is unnecessary now to speak: a copy was requested for the press by the unanimous voice of all who listened to the words of the speaker. The public will be enabled to estimate, when it shall read, the excellence of the manner in which materials collected with extraordinary diligence from the archives of the State, the records of the town, the papers of the past, and from all other sources of information, were arranged, and the accuracy and fidelity of the narrative.

After the Address, the glorious Anthem of Haydn, "O! Praise ye the Lord"—was sung by the choir, with the accompaniment of the band.

The hymn which follows, beautiful in the expression of the thoughts which crowd on such an anniversary, and having graceful words and gentle flowing rhyme, was then sung by the many voices of the musicians. We regret that we are unable to learn the name of the author of such good verse.

HYMN—By J. H. B.

One hundred years have roll'd away,  
Unrealized, unseen, unfelt,  
Since first before thine altars here,  
O, God! our holy fathers knelt.

They lie beneath those swelling mounds,  
Those ancient graves that once were green;  
No granite block, no marble pile  
Above their resting-place is seen.

Yet here they live,—the thoughts of God  
That in their children's bosoms thrill;  
Each holy prayer, each stirring hope,—  
All these are their memorials still.

First in their noble thoughts and plans,  
The love and worship, Lord, of Thee;

Then, the strong training of their youth,  
The love of Man and Liberty.

And when, above our old gray hills,  
They heard the battle thunders roll ;  
They look'd on those brave men who died,  
With a stern sympathy of soul.

And here we meet—remembering those  
Who laid these first foundations well,  
That, o'er their honored dust, one strain,  
Of triumph and of love may swell.

And we, like them, shall pass away,  
Our thoughts and wishes, hopes and fears,  
Lie buried in our scattered graves,  
Within another hundred years,

And now we bend before Thee, here,  
Stand on the ground our fathers trod ;  
Be Thou our strength, our life, our light,  
Our own, as once our FATHERS' God.

This hymn was read and sung after the ancient fashion, which was called "*deaconing*." The venerable Deacon Rice, having consented to take part in the services of the church, standing in his place at the communion table, read line by line. The scene when the whole of that vast congregation rose and joined with the choir in the solemn melody after the manner of "they of an hundred years ago," was deeply impressive.

Rev. John Keep of Pelham in New Hampshire, who married Miss Davis, a daughter of Holden, addressed the Throne of Grace, in earnest prayer, after this most interesting exercise was concluded.

The Anthem "Thy Love will build up Zion," was next performed by the choir and band.

The benediction, brief, beautiful, and eloquent, was pronounced by the Rev. William P. Paine, of Holden.

Again the Procession was formed by the Marshals, Preceded by the Band, escorting about one hundred and forty ladies, and one hundred and eighty citizens, the company were conducted by the same Marshals to the Town Hall, where tables had been spread, and a plenti-



ful and elegant repast had been prepared by Mr. Davis.

The blessing of Divine Providence was implored by the Rev. Mr. Bardwell, and the thanksgiving of the crowded company at the feast was returned by the Rev. Andrew Pollard.

Col. Samuel Damon presided at the table, and announced the following toasts :

*The Day we Celebrate*—Abounding in interesting associations and hallowed reflections, and sacred to the memory of those who acted here an hundred years ago.

*The flourishing Town of which this was originally a part*—She did not cast us off, nor did we rebel—but “the heart of the Commonwealth” was too large for the body.

William Lincoln, Esq. of Worcester, being called on by the President, responded to this sentiment at some length, and on the conclusion of his remarks proposed the following toast :

*Holden and Worcester*—United in past time within the same territorial boundaries, may they hereafter be more closely connected by the ties of friendship.

The President gave the following sentiment :

*Hon. Samuel Holden and Gov. Hancock, benefactors of the Town*—To the munificence of the one we are indebted for a valuable Library, and to the other for our beautiful Common.

S. F. Haven, Esq. of Worcester, responded to the call of the President, nearly as follows :

MR. PRESIDENT : I feel a somewhat peculiar interest in the sentiment that has just been repeated, from the fact that I am connected with an Institution which owes its origin to the same kind of liberality as is there commemorated; and in the absence of a more appropriate response, I will, with your leave, say a word or two before another toast is presented.

There are in this county, and its vicinity, several towns bearing the names of men distinguished in their day for promoting the literary interests of their country, and imparting from their wealth the means of providing

for the moral and intellectual cultivation of generations that should succeed them. Holden, Harvard, Hopkinton, are prominent among these monuments in honor and memory of such benefactions.

What more desirable, or more appropriate memorial could be devised, than communities like these, exhibiting in their intelligence, their good habits, their schools and religious institutions, the fruits of those endowments, the name and fame of which they perpetuate? What happier tribute could be paid to the worth of men who had regard to *our* well being as well as to that of their cotemporaries, than is rendered by such occasions and such meetings as the present? They looked forward to us with paternal solicitude, and, in return, we, this day, unite in expressing the filial reverence and gratitude with which we look back to them. I have not the honor, I believe, to be connected by descent with any of the founders and fathers of this town. The various villages of our Commonwealth are seldom, however, without some connecting ties.

I have learned from the interesting discourse, to which we have just listened, that the late Mr. Avery, your long-loved and respected pastor, came from my native town, and that my grandfather preached his ordination sermon, and I am disposed to fasten upon these facts for want of better claims to unite in these ceremonies and partake of this hospitality. But, sir, the present occasion is not one of merely local interest. The reminiscences of events that happened in this neighborhood, anecdotes of men who have lived here, the record of manners and habits, all constitute a tributary stream to the general current of our country's history. All history should be, and American history in particular must be, the history of the people. Not an account of the proceedings of a

court, or the operations of any government only, but of what the people have been doing, in villages, and communities, and families. These things lie at the foundation of national character and sentiment, and consequently of national events.

How would it be possible, for instance, for us to understand the philosophy of our Revolution, and appreciate the spirit that originated and sustained it, without going into the villages and upon the farms, and into the dwellings, by the aid of local traditions and histories, and seeing what manner of men were there—how they lived, and what they felt, and thought, and did? We are carried by this means behind the scenes, or rather into the scenes, of private history, and shown what are really the secret springs of public history. Those matters which possess a natural interest to a particular neighborhood, from association with familiar names and places, should be of interest to every one, who seeks, in the experience of the past, for that wisdom which may be derived from a knowledge of what those who lived before us have done or suffered—wherein they have erred and in what respects they have judged rightly. These records present to us pictures of human nature, both of its virtues and failings, such as we can best understand. The village disputes, religious quarrels, and political dissensions of past times, are analagous to those to which our own generation is exposed. They afford examples of character and conduct of which we can see the beginning and the end, and may draw therefrom most useful admonitions. We are living over the same lives, with important variations to be sure, but subject to the same general laws of action, inasmuch as we possess the same nature, and are governed by the same passions and motives, which always lead to similar results—similar in

character and consequences. I believe, sir, the time is coming when history and biography will be taught in our common schools, as carefully as grammar and arithmetic—taught as lessons of life—and that ignorance of the history of one's own town, or even of one's country, will be deemed as great a deficiency as ignorance of reading and writing now are. The historic genealogy of a village may be made as useful a guide, through the devious paths of life, as the chart of a mariner to him who sails among the quick-sands and breakers of the great deep; pointing out the track that others have pursued, and showing how and where they have advanced in safety, and how and where they have been lost upon shoals and rocks, the victims of heedlessness, or folly, or headstrong passion.

Not to detain you longer, I will offer as a sentiment—

*The Genealogical Tree:* A tree of knowledge, both of good and evil. The fruits thereof we are compelled to taste. May they open our eyes to a consciousness of our own capacities for good, and our own responsibilities for evil.

*The Governor of the Commonwealth*—A worthy and honored descendant of the moderator of our first town meeting, which we are celebrating.

*The patriotic and pious resolutions of our fore-fathers*—Whose first vote after their municipal organization was “to have the Gospel preached,” and the next “to have a writing and reading school kept.”

The happy and appropriate remarks of Rev. Mr. Paine, following this sentiment, we are not so fortunate as to possess.

*Honor to the memory of our Mothers, who presided over the distaff and the loom*—May their refined and beautiful Daughters be as much distinguished for their industry, energy, and virtue.

After this toast was given, the ladies sent to the chair the following:

*The gallant Sons of our venerable Fathers*—The Daughters will acknowledge their authority and respect their dignity, while they continue to protect and honor them.

*The distinguished Historian of Worcester*—By whose arduous labors among musty rolls, the early annals of our town have been put in an enduring form.

This toast called forth a pleasant and humorous reply from Mr. Lincoln, the absence of which is explained in another place.—[Ed.]

The President gave the following sentiment, and appealed to Isaac Davis, Esq. of Worcester, for a reply.

*The patriots of the Revolution, of whom this Town furnished its full quota*—Let the memory of the departed be cherished, and the living be crowned with honor.

Col. Davis rose and addresssd the company nearly as follows :

MR. PRESIDENT : One hundred and twenty years ago, there was seen a man with a plough on his shoulder passing very near the spot where we are now assembled. This individual pursued his course a few miles west of us, where he thrust the plough into the virgin soil, cast in the seed, and reaped the fruit of his labors. That man was the father of the first minister of Holden, and filled various offices of trust in the first municipal elections. I refer to Lieut. Simon Davis, whose remains are entombed in yonder church-yard. He was my great-great-grandfather. About twelve years ago, on a "raw and gusty day" in the month of March, there was seen a young man resembling myself, riding with a young lady whom he had taken for "*better and for worse*," over nearly the same ground that the sturdy pioneer of the forest passed. Her ancestors lay in yonder grave-yard. These, Mr. President, are some of the relations I bear to those who have lived in the first century of Holden. With these connections I do not feel that I am an "alien and a stanger" here. Never—no, never have I looked on a New England audience with more intense interest than on thîs present occasion. A few days since I was travelling in Old England—looking at her soil, her climate, her institutions, and the state and condition of her people, and be assured, Sir, I came home with renewed love for our own happy homes, our own glorious institutions.

We do not know, nor can we know, how much the masses there suffer, unless we personally witness their degradation. What we call poverty is there considered a comfortable condition. To see the citizens of one of the thrice happy towns of New England assembled for the purpose of celebrating an anniversary like the present, is to my mind, a noble spectacle. It leads me to the contemplation of the social, civil, and religious privileges we are enjoying. Never have I so fully realized the inestimable value of these privileges. Never shall I again wonder and be surprised that our fathers left their native land—crossed the broad Atlantic at an inclement season of the year, and breasted the dangers incident to this western wilderness. They came to establish the Institutions which we are now enjoying. Without troubling you with further remarks, Mr. President, allow me to offer a sentiment.

*Our Social, Civil, and Religious Institutions*—They cost great toil—great suffering—much treasure—much blood :—but not half as much as they are worth.

One of the soldiers of the revolution, Mr. Drury, was present, and replied to this sentiment, with some appropriate remarks.

Col. James Estabrook of Worcester, a native of Holden, offered the following :

*The early settlers of Holden*—Distinguished for their love of order, peace, and sobriety—piously devoted to the cause of civil and religious liberty. May we, their descendants, cherish their virtues, and not prove recreant sons by neglecting to do all in our power to transmit them unimpaired to those who shall come after us.

Many volunteer sentiments were offered and received with cordial approbation, and we regret that we have not been able to procure them, to add to the account of the pleasant celebration.

At an early hour the assembly separated. No incident occurred to mar the enjoyment of a festival of deep and peculiar interest. The arrangements were so judi-

ciously made, as to secure best the gratification of those who attended:

Those who participated in this centennial anniversary, can never join there in any other which shall return with the course of years. To other generations it may be interesting to know in what manner they of the present day honored the memory of their ancestors, and this record is made to perpetuate the recollection of the celebration of the anniversary of the organization of the town of Holden.

---

The account of the Centennial Celebration at Holden was furnished by a gentleman whose interest in such occasions and predilection for historical research is well known from its practical fruits. It was not until we examined the proof, that we became aware of omissions, some of which it was then too late to remedy. We refer to the remarks of William Lincoln, Esq., in reply to the sentiment expressive of the relation which the towns of Holden and Worcester hold to each other, and also to that which has a more personal allusion. It was for the sake of these remarks that one at least of the guests from this town assented on his own part to the request that notes of their observations should be inserted. As citizens of Worcester, we could not but desire that an acknowledgement and declaration of the friendly and cordial connections still subsisting between the parent town and its vigorous offspring, with the reflections incidentally suggested, might be preserved, in substance at least, if not in form. We trust that the historian of Worcester will not suffer the existence of such sentiments to remain unrecorded, although it may not be possible that the very language of a most happy extempore speech should be remembered. We hope to hear from him next week.—[Ed.]

**Mr. SAMUEL C. DAMON,**

**DEAR SIR**—The subscribers, Committee of Arrangements, were appointed, before the Anniversary Exercises closed, to return the thanks of the audience to you, for your able address, and request a copy for the press.

**Most Respectfully,**

**Yours,**

**SAMUEL DAMON,  
SILAS M. HUBBARD,  
WILLIAM METCALF,  
SILAS FLAGG,  
JAMES WINCH,  
PAUL DAVIS,  
LEMUEL FISKE,  
CHARLES CHAFFIN,  
JASON MANN,  
JOHN DAVIS,  
JONATHAN RICE,  
SAMUEL FOSTER,  
JUDAH WRIGHT.**

**Holden, May 4, 1841.**



## P R E F A C E .

---

The Author of the following Address, and compiler of the Notes and Appendix, desires to connect, with their publication, an acknowledgement of his obligation to persons who have kindly imparted advice, and furnished materials of history. To the Committee appointed for that purpose—but particularly to Charles Chaffin, Esq., a member of that Committee; to William Lincoln, Esq., of Worcester; and S. F. Haven, Esq., Librarian of the American Antiquarian Library; to the Librarian of Cambridge University; and the Rev. Joseph B. Felt; of Boston, to the Rev. William P. Paine; and the citizens of Holden in general, also to the wife of Aaron White, Esq., of Boylston, the author and compiler would express gratitude for their kindness and assistance. Without their aid this publication must have been destitute of interest and meagre in historical information.

In preparing this address for publication, the author has taken the liberty to make a few alterations. In some instances, additions have been made. Accuracy, however, has been his constant aim.

Materials have been gathered from sources as various as can be readily imagined by persons who have not attempted a similar work. Provincial and State papers, at Boston, Proprietors' and Town Books, Church and Society Records, Public Libraries, Newspapers, family histories and traditions, the recollections of the living, and the tombstones of the departed, have been made tributary to the undertaking.

It is hoped some apology for the errors and imperfections of the work may be found in the circumstance, that hitherto this path of historical research has been untravelled. The author could neither copy the errors or excellencies of his predecessors. And if this effort shall assist a successor, or any among his fellow citizens, better to understand, or render more complete the history of his native town, it will be a sufficient and rich reward.

## ADDRESS.

---

THIS day completes the first century since the Town of Holden was organized agreeably to the Provincial Statutes of Massachusetts Bay. The records of that event, which we have assembled to commemorate, have been carefully preserved upon the Town-books. They read as follows:—"At an annual meeting in Holden on Monday y<sup>e</sup> fourth of May, Anno 1741, Mr Simon Davis chose Moderator for s<sup>d</sup> meeting. Simon Davis, John Bigelow, and Cyprian Stevens chose Select-men. Cyprian Stevens chose Town-Clerk—Sworn. Jonathan Lovall chose constable for the East-end—Sworn. James Smith chose constable for the West-end—Sworn. Samuel Clark, Samuel Pierce, and Samuel Heywood, chose Assessors—Sworn. William Nickols chose Town-Treasurer—Sworn. Abraham Newton chose Tything-man—Sworn. James Gray, Jotham Bigelow, and David Brown chose Fence-viewers. Jotham Bigelow chose Clerk of the Market—Sworn. James Grey, and Samuel Bruce chose Hog-reeves—Sworn. Joseph Woolley, and Abraham Newton chose Field-drivers—Sworn. Samuel Heywood chose Sealer of Leather—Sworn. James Caldwell and John Childs chose Deer-reeves—Sworn. John Bigelow, and Joseph Hubbard chose Surveyors of highways—Sworn. Simon Davis chose Grand-juryman."\*

---

\* Town Records, vol. 1, p. 2

In celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of a day, the records of which have now been read, MY FELLOW CITIZENS—We follow the promptings of principles deeply implanted in our natures. It is fit and proper to exhibit a becoming and grateful respect for the memory of that generation of men,—who, clearing the forests, made their homes upon the hills, and in the valleys of our town.

The duty devolving upon me, by accepting the invitation from the Committee of Arrangements, to prepare an address for this occasion, I shall endeavor to discharge by narrating the history of Holden, from the period when authentic records commence, down to the close of the 18th century, concluding with an allusion to a few prominent events in the present century.

The earliest authentic accounts, on record, which refer to the tract of land now embraced within the limits of the township of Holden, are co-eval with the history of Worcester. That town originally had its North and South *halves*. The General Court of Massachusetts, in May, 1667, appointed a Committee "to take an exact view" of lands lying in the vicinity of Quinsigamond Pond, and being about mid-way between Boston and Springfield. Daniel Gookin, Edward Johnson, and Andrew Belchar, members of this Committee, made the following report, in October, 1668:—

"We have, according to the Court's Orders bearing date 15th May, 1667, viewed the place therein mentioned, and find it to be about twelve miles westward from Marlborough, near the road to Springfield, and that it contains a tract of very good chestnut tree land; a large quantity; but the meadow we find not so much; because a very considerable quantity of meadow and upland, about five thousand acres, is laid out unto particular persons, and

confirmed by this Court, \* \* \* \* but, all this notwithstanding, we conceive, there may be enough meadow for a small plantation, or town, of about thirty families; and if those farms be annexed to it, it may supply about sixty families. Therefore we conceive it expedient, that the honored Court will be pleased to reserve it for a town, being conveniently situated, and well watered with ponds and brooks, and lying near mid-way between Boston and Springfield, about one day's journey from either; and for the settling thereof, we do offer unto the Court, that which follows—viz :—

That there be a meet proportion of land granted and laid out for a town, in the best form the place will bear, about the contents of eight miles square;

That a prudent and able committee be appointed and empowered to lay it out.

That due care be taken by the committee, that a good minister of God's word be placed there as soon as may be; that such people as may be there planted, may not live as lambs in a LARGE place.”\*

This report was approved and accepted by the General Court. Another committee was appointed to carry its recommendations into execution. The history of this “tract of very good chesnut tree land, containing a good supply of ponds and brooks, and being about eight miles square, and laid out in the best form the place will bear” I shall endeavor to trace through a period of one hundred and thirty-two years, so far as its history refers to the original proprietorship, and settlement of Holden.

The persons, who had obtained a grant of this tract of land from the General Court, did not consider their title as valid, until by purchase, it had been secured to them by the Indians, the original proprietors of the soil. On

---

\* Lincoln's history of Worcester, p. 8.

the 13th of July, 1674, John alias Horrawannonit, or Quiquonassett, Sagamore of Pakachoge, and Solomon alias Woonaskochu, Sagamore of Tataessit, together with the consent of their kindred and people, conveyed by deed the abovementioned tract of land to Daniel Gookin of Cambridge, Daniel Henchman of Boston, and certain other persons, for and in consideration of £12 of lawful money, of New England currency, or in full value thereof in other specie to be paid within three months after the date of the deed. The Indians received "two coats and four yards of trading cloth valewed at twenty-six shillings," as a pledge that the money should be duly paid. Messrs. Gookin, Henchman, and others fully discharged their obligation to the Indians before the *three months* had expired, and came into possession of "the broken upland and woodlands, woods, trees, rivers, brooks, ponds, swamps, meadows, mineralls, or any other thing, or things whatsoever, lying or being within that tract of land, containing eight miles square or the contents thereof, to be layd out by y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> persons or their order in time convenient."\*

The district of country, described in the first Indian deed from which extracts have been made, embraced the entire townships of Worcester and Holden, before any portions were set off to form the towns of Auburn, Paxton, or West Boylston.†

King Phillip's war commencing A. D. 1675, in connection with other unpropitious events, retarded the rapid

---

\* See Note A.

† "The plantation of Quinsigamond, as originally granted, and surveyed, extended nearly twelve miles from north to south, and six from east to west. It was designed to include the same quantity of land which would have been comprehended in a tract eight miles square. As stated in the original plan, the north and south lines were 1920 rods each; the east line 3815; the west 3760." Lincoln, p. 160.

settlement of this part of the Massachusetts colony.\* This circumstance induced the General Court, at their session in October 1682, to pass a vote rendering "forfeit and lost" the grant of this tract of land, to Gookin and others, unless vigorous exertions were speedily adopted to advance its settlement.† The Grantees were now urged to take immediate action to preserve their claims. It was found by estimation that about 480 acres of good meadow land were contained within the limits of this grant. An agreement was made, at a meeting of the Proprietors, April 24, 1682, to divide the whole township into as many lots as there were acres of meadow land; "200 for Planters; 80 for public uses or other specific appropriations, and the remaining 200 to be laid out on the north extremity forming a division, afterwards known as North Worcester, and subsequently rendered permanent by the incorporation of Holden."‡

The dividing line between North and South Worcester was drawn during the year 1683 or 4. For a period of more than thirty years subsequent to this division, but very meagre records have been preserved relating to the North half of Worcester. "For a time," observes Lincoln in his history of Worcester, "we lose sight of the town and its inhabitants. From 1686 to 1713 no record is preserved on the proprietary book of any transactions. Neither history nor tradition informs us of the labors, dangers and sufferings of the earlier planters. Gen. Gookin, the early and faithful friend of the plantation, was called to the rewards of a long life, characterised by fervent piety, enlarged benevolence, incorruptible integrity, and the practice of every manly virtue, in March, 1687."§

\* Holme's Annals, vol. 1, p. 369.

† Lincoln's his. Worcester, p. 80.

‡ " " " p. 80.

§ " " " p. 83.

Capt. Adam Winthrop was appointed to the office which had been so ably filled by the untiring exertions of the much lamented Gookin. The Winthrop family of Boston owned extensive tracts of land in North and South Worcester.

I can find no records, which lead me to conclude, that any settlements were made in Worcester North half, previously to 1722. The solitude of the wilderness had remained unbroken, unless the occasional report of an huntsman's gun, or the shrill whoop of the Indian, echoing among the hills, aroused the timid deer, or hungry wolf. Tradition reports that numbers of each species continued in this vicinity, long after the first settlers had made their homes in the wilderness. History as well as tradition, describes an Indian path leading from Lancaster to Hadley, which passed through the north part of this town, near the farm now owned by Samuel W. Hubbard. Traces of this path, I have been told are still to be seen.

One century had now elapsed, since the Pilgrims disembarked from the May Flower, upon the shores of New England. It had been a century of labors, of hardships, perils and wars, to the first settlers of the country. During this period, the colonies were continually increasing in population and importance. Every year witnessed new settlements in the wilderness. Hardy adventurers were carrying to the westward the out-posts of civilization. The town of Worcester was incorporated June 14th, 1722.\* In the month of October following, the proprietors of "common and undivided lands" in the town of Worcester, Voted—"that a committee of five persons be chosen, to provide a surveyor, and that he proceed forthwith to measure the meadow lands in Worcester North

---

\*Lincoln's his. Worcester, p. 50.

half.\* Although this vote was not then carried into execution, in consequence of certain troubles in South Worcester, yet I deem it worthy of special notice, because from this date—the last Wednesday of October, 1722, authentic records of this township have been carefully preserved.

An incident occurred about this period—Spring of 1723, which led, as I suppose, to the forming of the first settlement in this town. Mr. Jonas Rice, a citizen of South Worcester, had discovered limestone upon the farm, now known by the name of the *Bullard Farm*. At a meeting of the proprietors, in March, 1723, a vote was passed granting “encouragement to the first finder of limestones and undertaker of the burning lime for the supplying the town.” A committee was appointed to agree with Mr. Rice to burn lime upon the following conditions, viz :

1. “The undertaker, Mr. Rice, to have a patent for 50 acres of land to be allotted him, for seven years; and that he have liberty to cut wood on any *common* land of the proprietors, and that every body else be forbid digging limestones, or cutting wood, until the end of said term.”

2. “That the town be allowed 2*d.* per bushel for all merchantable lime.”

3. “That all the inhabitants, that may have occasion, for their own use in building to be used in town, shall give 12*d.* per bushel for it, and no more.”

4 & 5. \* \* \* \* \*

6. “That the undertaker be obliged to go upon the business with all speed, and also to supply the inhabitants with lime for their own use when they want it, as soon as may be with any conveniency and that they be

\* Proprietors' Books, Vol. 1 : p. 1.



preferred before any other persons belonging to other towns."\*

The lot of land, known upon the early records of the town, as the *Lime Lot*, was sold, in the year 1759, to Mr. Anthony Clark.† The avails form a part of the present school fund of the town. A settlement was made in the immediate neighborhood of the lime lot, which is supposed to be the FIRST SETTLEMENT in Holden. The remains of lime kilns still appear about 60 rods south of Timothy Parker's house. That part of the town subsequently set off to form West Boylston, was very early settled by the Lovells.

The records of the proprietors of the common and undivided lands in North and South Worcester, indicate that vigorous exertions were made on their part to promote the rapid settlement of this portion of the township, immediately subsequent to the incorporation of Worcester. They caused two surveys to be made, one in the autumn of 1723, and the other in the spring of 1724. The land having been thus surveyed, was divided into lots containing, respectively, 60 a. and 100 a. called, first and second divisions. Those owning land in South Worcester were entitled to tracts of land in North Worcester, agreeably to the following rules, viz: A land-holder of 40 acres in the South part was entitled to 60 acres of the first division, and 100 acres of the second division, "*and so proportionable to bigger or lesser lotts.*" I would remark that persons were left to the choice of particular tracts, having first cast lots for priority of choice. The individual drawing No. 1 was allowed to *pitch* first in that division which contained 60 a. lots, but last in the other division which contained 100 a. lots. The

---

\* Proprietors' Books, Vol. 1 : p. 3.

† Town Records, Vol. 1 : p. 120.

above tracts of land were all to be laid out in squares, or "long squares."\*

No proprietor was more active and efficient, in promoting the welfare of North Worcester, at this early period, than Col. Adam Winthrop of Boston. As a mark of grateful respect to this gentleman for his good services, the proprietors passed the following vote:—"Col. Adam Winthrop for his good services done for the town of Worcester shall have the first *pitch* in the North half part of Worcester."† For years subsequent to this event, the interests of North Worcester profitted by his wise counsels and judicious plans. He emphatically may be called a FATHER to the town.

Near 4000 acres of land, in North Worcester, were transferred from company stock to private individuals. Many of the proprietors of lands living in Boston and vicinity, their meetings were frequently held in that city. To facilitate settlements and raise the value of landed property, the proprietors appointed a committee to lay out four public roads, 6 rods wide, from the centre of North Worcester, in such ways as would be most serviceable to the said half part and the towns adjoining.‡ The centre of the township was then supposed to be about 50 or 60 rods north from the spot occupied by the house in which we are now assembled. These public roads were laid out previously to any portion of the township becoming the private property of individuals.

From the consultation of ancient records, or inquiries among the most aged inhabitants, I have not been able to decide upon the precise years when settlements were made in different parts of the town. The number of inhabitants as early as 1739 was sufficient in their opinion

---

\* Proprietors' Books, Vol. 1 : p. 5, 6. † Ibid. Vol. 1 : p. 7. ‡ Ibid. Vol. 1 : p. 6.

to render desirable the establishment of public worship. In November of that year, James Thompson, who lived beyond the *Warner Farm*, associated with sixteen other persons, petitioned the proprietors, praying that the land might be taxed to defray the expenses which would arise from building a meeting house and supporting a minister.\* This attempt was not successful, but Thompson and his fellow townsmen did not relax their efforts. The right of petition, that most reasonable of all rights, they continued to exercise, until their desires were fully gratified, when they obtained, in the year 1736, a vote from the proprietors to erect a house for public worship: "50 feet long; 40 wide; and 22 between the *joynts*."† At the same meeting of the proprietors, Dec., 1736, it was also Voted that the meeting house should be erected "about 60 rods southward from the place where four roads meet."‡ Capt. Benjamin Flagg, Lieut. Simon Davis, and Lieut. Joseph Hubbard, were appointed a committee to select the proper spot, "*which shall be found the most accommodable therefor to be fixed and staked out.*"§

The question may have arisen in the minds of some of this audience, what was the character of the preaching in those early times? A vote recorded upon the 29th page, Vol. 1, of the proprietors' books, furnishes a most satisfactory answer. December 29, 1736: "Voted, That provision be made for supporting an orthodox minister to preach the gospel in said North half for three years next to come."

To defray the expenses which would necessarily arise

\* Proprietors' Books, Vol. 1 : p. 27. † Ibid, Vol. 1 : p. 28.

‡ The first meeting house occupied the site where now stands the house of Col. Damon. It never was painted. The windows were small, and set with *diamond* glass in leaden sashes; nine in front and five in each end. There were a number of *noon-houses* near, for the accommodation of persons living at a distance.

§ Proprietors' Books, Vol. 1 : p. 29.

from carrying the above votes into execution, a tax of 4*d.* per acre for the first year; 2*d.* per acre for the second year; and 3*d.* per acre for the following year, was assessed upon all lands lying within the North half of Worcester.\*

Reasons sufficiently strong induced the inhabitants of North Worcester to take the proper measures for obtaining a separate act of incorporation, during the winter of 1739 and 40. The 9th of Jan., 1740, has for a long period been the date assigned for the incorporation of this town. Without doubt, this date is too early by one year. The error probably arose from the practice, then prevalent in the colonies and throughout Europe, of commencing the year on the 25th of March, instead of the 1st of January. This practice went into disuse in the year 1752, by an Act of Parliament; when New Style was adopted in the place of Old Style.†

A few events, worthy of notice, which took place previously to the Act of incorporation being granted, I will proceed to narrate. At a general meeting of the citizens of North and South Worcester, held March 3, 1740, it was voted, that the North half part of the township be set off a distinct and separate town, if an Act to that effect could be obtained from the General Court.‡ On the 13th of May following, a petition, signed by twenty-five citizens of North Worcester, was forwarded to the General Court, praying to be set off a separate and distinct town. This petition was not granted. At the next meeting of the General Court—November of the same year—another petition was presented; and the petitioners were successful in obtaining *An Act of Incorporation*. The Act passed the General Court, January 2, and was signed by His

§ Proprietors' Books, Vol. 1: p. 30. † Encyclopædia Americana, Vol. 4: p. 549. ‡ Worcester Towns' Records.

Excellency, Governor Belcher, Jan. 9, 1741, and in the 14th year of the reign of George II.

When this Act had passed the General Court, the North half of Worcester became a distinct and separate town, "by the name of Holden, with all the powers, privileges, and immunities which the inhabitants of other towns within this Province do, and by law ought to enjoy."§

The elevated character and beneficent exertions of the gentleman in honor of whom this town received its name, merit, on the present occasion, a respectful and grateful notice.

The Hon. Samuel Holden was a merchant of London. By his talents, integrity, and great capacity in mercantile affairs, he raised himself to a seat in Parliament, and became a leading Director of the Bank of England. At the time of his death, June 13, 1740, his estate was valued at £80,000 sterling. Unfeigned piety and abounding charities added lustre and power to the other excellencies of his character. He was acknowledged to be at the head of the Dissenters in Great Britain, which circumstance, probably induced him to direct his benevolent efforts to the colonies of New England. For more than forty years he was a correspondent of Dr. Benjamin Coleman of Boston, who preached a sermon on the occasion of his death being announced in this country. This sermon having been preached before the General Court of the Colony, an Order was passed, containing these words: "———— be a committee to return the thanks of this Court to the Rev. Dr. Coleman, for his sermon preached this day, (September 4th, 1740,) before the Court, on the occasion of the death of the Hon. Samuel Holden, an eminent friend and benefactor of the Province." Mr. Holden furnished abundant proof of

\* Act of Incorporation. See Note B.

his desire to promote the cause of evangelical piety in this country. Dr. Coleman received from him 39 sets of Baxter's practical works, in 4 massive folios, to be distributed among the churches of New England. The sum of his charities, at different times, amounted to £4,847. After his death, his widow and daughters emulated his noble example in the cause of benevolence. HOLDEN CHAPEL, at Cambridge, was built by their generous donations. Numerous theological works were presented by them to the first Pastor of the church in Holden, and to his successors. I would conclude this notice of Mr. Holden, by two short extracts from his letters. Alluding in one to the death of his only son, he remarks,—“I have had one son, and it pleased God early to take him from me; my comfort in the loss of him and my dear mother, was, that I had in each, one attachment less to earth—one argument more for heaven.” On another occasion he writes,—“I hope my treasure is in heaven, and would to God my heart were more there. Abstract from God and futurity, I would not accept of an eternity here in any other circumstances whatever.”\*

By an order of the General Court, issued March 26, 1741, John Bigelow, a principal inhabitant of Holden, was authorized to assemble the legal voters, at some convenient place, for the choice of town officers. The citizens assembled in obedience to that order on the 4th of May. The records of that meeting have already been rehearsed. Another meeting was legally called, after the expiration of two weeks, for the transaction of town affairs. Six votes are recorded upon the town books as having been passed on that occasion. To the honor of the citizens of Holden legally assembled in that meeting,

---

\* Dr. Coleman's Sermon. President Quincy's History of Harvard University. The Gentleman's Magazine. Allen's Biographical Dictionary.

the vote which was first passed deserves to be written in letters of gold: "VOTED TO HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED IN TOWN." The following two relate to the same subject. The fourth vote deserves to be recorded in characters of nearly equal brilliancy with the first: "VOTED TO HAVE A WRITING AND READING SCHOOL." A public pound was the object of the fifth vote. Then followed the last vote passed upon the occasion, which related to a tax of £50 to be raised, "to defray the charge of preaching and schooling."\*

One hundred years have passed, and, to the honor of our ancestors and their children, let the fact be published to the world, that the spirit which animated the citizens of Holden on that day still burns in the bosoms of their descendants. Good schools and good preaching have always received a liberal support from the inhabitants of this town.

During the year 1741, a school of 3 months was maintained, commencing the 1st of September. No church, as yet, had been organized, or pastor settled. The town, by an unanimous vote, July 19, 1742, invited the Rev. Joseph Davis to enter upon the work of the gospel ministry in town. A salary of £180 (old tenor, \$154 33) was voted to be annually paid to him, and the sum of £400 (O. T. \$343) as a settlement donation. From the reply of Mr. Davis, we learn the manner in which the settlement money was to be paid. After expressing his acceptance of the salary proposed, he proceeds to say—"As to the settlement, I accept the same as follows: I take the lands in the said Holden, given to the first settled minister, † viz. one hundred acres of upland in two pieces, each containing 50 acres, and 4 acres of meadow, (so called,) at the sum of £215, (old tenor,) as appraised by order of the

\* Town Records, Vol. 1: p. 3. † Proprietors' Books, Vol. 1: p. 15.

town, with the proprietors' concurrence, in part for my settlement money. 2. I depend on receiving from the town or propriety the remaining sum of £185 (O. T.) as soon as it can be collected."\*

The interesting exercises of Mr. Davis' ordination were performed December 22, 1742. Four of the neighboring churches were represented by their Pastors and Delegates, viz, Lancaster, Worcester, Shrewsbury, and Rutland. A church was regularly organized the same day, consisting of fourteen members. All were males. Nine were admitted by letters from other churches, and five upon profession.†

The leading aims of the first settlers of Holden were now accomplished. They desired, for years, "to be set off a distinct and separate town;" that desire was now fully gratified. To have the gospel ministry established in their midst, was the object of their most strenuous efforts and ardent prayers. Those efforts were now crowned with success, and those prayers literally answered. The records which have been preserved of that period most clearly indicate great harmony and peace among the citizens of Holden.

We must now begin to trace the influence of commotions and wars in the Old World, in their effects upon the Colonies of the New, if a correct picture be exhibited of the most retired settlement in the wilderness.

In 1744 England declared war against France. The colonists warmly espoused the cause of their father-land. For a period of more than 25 years, previous to this date, the French had been actively employed in rendering more secure their possessions in North America. To protect their navigation and fisheries, they had built the town of Louisbourg, on the island of Cape Briton in Nova Sco-

\* Town Rec., Vol. 1 : p. 9. † Church Rec., Vol. 1 : p. 27. See Note C.



tia. Vast sums of money had there been expended. Forts had been erected and batteries planted. "This place was deemed so strong and impregnable as to be called the Dunkirk of America." Gov. Shirley of Massachusetts projected a plan for the reduction of this strong hold. The province of Massachusetts was called upon to furnish more than 3,000 men for this enterprise. Every town responded to the summons. We have the strongest circumstantial evidence that Holden furnished its quota of soldiers. Many of the muster rolls of the forces then raised having been destroyed, I am unable to rehearse the names of soldiers drafted from Holden. The enterprize was most successfully executed. The labors and dangers encountered by the colonists of New England, are well-nigh incredible. When the news of this event reached Europe, "the enterprise, patriotism, and firmness of the colonists were justly extolled."\*

In tracing the history of Holden, we are approaching the close of that generation, who may be called—

#### *The FIRST SETTLERS OF HOLDEN.*

With the most intense interest must our minds linger around this period of our history. The men of that day had difficulties and trials to overcome such as meet the first settlers in every new country. To clear the forests, erect houses, make roads, build bridges, maintain schools, and support the gospel ministry, were objects most cheerfully performed by our worthy ancestors. Barely to live was not the whole of life with them; it was their determination to live as honest men, good neighbors, honorable citizens, and accountable to God. From no source of information have I gathered facts which would lead to the conclusion, that the first settlers of Holden were inferior to that generation of men whose

---

\* *Holmes' Annals*, II., p. 25, 26.

settlement in New England forms so important an epoch in history, and whose fame knows no other limits than the whole civilized world. It is not until 1763 that I discover any public misdemeanor to have been committed by a citizen of Holden,—when two boys were fined £1, 7*sh.*, for breaking glass in the meeting house.\*

A large proportion of the families first settling in Holden, could trace their ancestry back to the earlier settlers of New England. Many came from Concord, some from Lexington, and others from Watertown, Medfield, and other towns in the eastern part of the Province. Through one of these families, His Excellency, the present Governor of Massachusetts, traces the line of his ancestors. I refer to the family of Mr. Simon Davis, moderator of the first town meeting. He was also chosen, at the same meeting, chairman of the board of Selectmen, and Grand-juryman. During his life he sustained the most important offices in the power of his fellow townsmen to bestow, and died, Feb. 16, 1763, at the advanced age of eighty years.†

The charge of excessive vanity has, again and again, been cast upon the people of New England, for speaking in terms which betray warm admiration for the character of their ancestors. Those who would reproach us being the judges, there is acknowledged truth in a quaintly expressed sentiment of an old writer: "The Lord sifted the kingdoms of Europe to obtain good seed wherewith to plant the sterile fields of New England." (I quote from memory.)

Allusion has already been made to the fact that wars

---

\* Town Records, Vol. 1 : p. 64. "Voted, £1-7*s.* now in the Treasurer's hands, that he received from Isaac Lealand and Joseph Bash for their shooting at the meeting house, be for mending the glass and other breaches in said meeting house?"

† Town Records and Grave-stone.

among the nations of Europe affected the welfare of the American Colonies. The war known in history by the name of "*French and Indian War*," furnishes melancholy evidence for the truth of this statement. "The military records of those wars," writes Governor Everett, "as far as the province of Massachusetts is concerned are still in existence. The original muster rolls are preserved in the State House at Boston. They prove that the people of Massachusetts, between the years 1755 and 1763 performed an amount of military service, probably never exacted of any other people, living under a government professing to be free. Not a village in Massachusetts, but sent its sons to lay their bones in the West Indies, in Nova Scotia, and the Canadian wilderness. Judge Minot states, that in the year 1757, one third part of the effective men of Massachusetts were, in some way or other, in the field, and that the taxes imposed on real property in Boston, amounted to two thirds of the income."\*

I have examined many of the old muster rolls and other records relating to this war, now safely deposited in our State archives. From those papers I have copied the names of such persons as engaged in the French and Indian war who were drafted from Holden:—William Fisher, Richard Flagg, Samuel Boyd, and Peter Nutten, enlisted into the company of Capt. Benj. Flagg of Worcester, to strengthen the forces stationed at Lake George. Henry Rice, Job Harris, Samuel Estabrook, John Murphey, Jedediah Estabrook, (son of Samuel Estabrook,) Samuel Hubbard, jr., Samuel Bigelow, John Woodward, Samuel Thompson, and Ebenezer Fletcher, enlisted into the company of Capt. John Chandler, for the invasion of Canada. In an expedition to Crown Pt.,

---

\* Everett's Orations, p. 509.

the following persons served under Capt. Fletcher of Rutland, viz., Ebenezer Fletcher, 1st Lieut., Ebenezer Fletcher, jr., 2d Lieut., Samuel Estabrook and son, Job Harris, Samuel Hubbard, and John Murphy, Privates. There can be no doubt, that many other soldiers from Holden engaged in this war, whose names cannot now be given, because until within a few years, no pains were taken to preserve the muster rolls of those early wars.

Our fathers were willing to expose their lives and expend their fortunes for the welfare of the mother country. The American Colonists were as loyal subjects of the Crown of England, as those personally serving in the palace of King George III. The French and Indian war, from this circumstance, has not inappropriately been styled "*the school of the Revolution.*" Washington distinguished himself as a brave commander in this war, and from the English learned the science of military tactics. During that war, many of his officers and private soldiers became intimately acquainted with the practical duties of the camp and field. From the point of observation which we occupy, it most readily appears how important was that service to prepare those men for the stations of trust and responsibility, which they were called to occupy at a subsequent period of their lives.

Before proceeding to speak of events in the revolutionary war as they affected the progress of affairs in Holden, I shall notice some records preserved among our church and town papers. In 1759, Daniel Henchman, Esq., of Boston, gave to the town, the spot of land occupied for the first burying ground, measuring 12 rods long, and 10 rods broad.\* Additions have since been

\* The Dead.

made increasing the area to its present dimensions. The 20th of August, 1761, was observed as a day of fasting and prayer by reason of a severe drought.\* During the early history of the town frequent mention is made that public schools were kept at houses of private persons. In 1752, a school was kept 3 months at Mr. Joseph Hubbard's house : another school, the same year, at Lieut. Cyprian Stevens' house. During the following year, schools were kept in other parts of the town,—3 months at the centre ; 3 months at Jonathan Lovell's house ; and 3 months at Lieut. Richard Flagg's house. In 1754, it was voted, in town meeting, that £13-6s.-8d., be appropriated for the erection of a school house at the centre of the town. I have not been able to learn that this vote was carried into execution. Tradition reports that the first school house was erected in the east part of the town, in the neighborhood of the Bullard place. The sum annually appropriated for schools gradually increased from year to year. In 1752, the sum of £11-12s. was raised for 6 months schooling ; and in 1762 the sum had increased to £30, including the interest upon the *lime lot*.†

The connection of the Rev. Mr. Davis, as pastor of the church in Holden, continued until January, 1773 ; when he was dismissed at his own request. From a printed sermon of Mr. Davis, I have gathered some statistics relating to the history of this town, worthy of preservation, as they were collected by one so intimately acquainted with the first settlers of Holden. I would remark that Mr. Davis preached this sermon January 2, 1793, fifty years having passed since his introduction to the work of the gospel ministry. " At first," writes Mr. Davis, " your increase was slow ; little alteration for the

\* Church Records. † Town Records.

term of five years; but, afterwards, the increase was more; for, at the end of ten years, your number of families was fifty-five. For the second ten years, the increase in families was small, only ten. The last ten years of my ministry, the increase was fifty one. The whole number at my dismissal, about one hundred and six families. There had been 642 births; about 330 were males, and about 310 were females. There have died 214 persons; about 80 under the age of two years; and more than half under the age of five. The number baptized by me about 520. At the end of twenty years the church consisted of about 75 members, and when I was dismissed of 86; 38 males, 48 females. There was a remarkable sickness about seven years after my settlement; 22 persons died. And about 6 years after, the year after the *great Earthquake*, a raging distemper carried off about 45 persons in a short time, mostly younger persons and children.”\*

The great earthquake, to which allusion is made in the above extract, occurred November 15, 1755. The shock was felt in various parts of North America. In Boston, “100 chimnies were in a manner levelled with the roof of the houses. Many clocks were stopped.” In New Haven, Ct., “the ground in many places seemed to rise like waves of the sea. The motion of the earth was undulatory. Its extent was from Chesapeak Bay, southwest, to Halifax, northeast, about 800 miles.”† The effects of this earthquake were most visibly apparent in that part of Holden, subsequently set off to form the town of West Boylston. The Rev. John Mellen, at that period pastor of the second church of Lancaster, (now Sterling,) has given a minute description of the place, as it then appeared. Several acres of land were

\* Rev. Mr. Davis's Sermon, p. 20, 21. † Holmes' Annals, II., p. 67.

sunk, in some places "more than the height of a man." Trees on each side of the breach were thrown in various directions, "and some sometimes crossing each other over head, at right angles, sometimes thrown up by the roots." The old channel being blocked up, the water flows in an entirely new direction. The stump of a tree that happened to stand directly over the chasm, on the east, is divided into equal parts, one standing on the outside of the chasm; the other on the inside, but not opposite to each other. The half within the chasm being carried five feet forward towards the river.\* It is a remarkable fact that this earthquake occurred the same month and year with that terrible convulsion of the earth, which sunk a portion of Lisbon, the chief city of Portugal, containing a population of 150,000; one fifth part of whom suddenly perished. Every church and convent fell. Fires broke out, two hours after the shock, which continued to rage for three days, so that the city was completely desolated.†

The church in Holden remained without a pastor nearly two years after the dismissal of the Rev. Mr. Davis. December 21st, 1774, Mr. Joseph Avery, having received a call from the church and town, was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry.‡ His annual salary was established, £66-13s.-4d., lawful money, (\$222 22); and the sum of £133-6s.-8d., L. M., (\$444 44) was voted as a settlement donation.

Some prominent events of the Revolutionary war now claim our attention, if we would carefully trace the history of this town, during that most eventful period in our country's history. The first allusion to events which led to that war I find upon the records of the church in

---

\* Massachusetts Historical Collections, Vol. 4, 1st Series, p. 231. † Encyclopedia Americana, VIII., p. 10. ‡ See Note D.

the hand-writing of the pastor. "October 12, 1768, observed as a day of fasting and prayer on account of the aspects of Divine Providence in our public affairs."\* By consulting Provincial history, the cause is readily apparent why a day of fasting and prayer was observed. October 1st, numerous companies of British soldiers had been stationed in the city of Boston. "The colonists felt disgusted and injured, but not overawed, by the presence of obtruded soldiery."† How truly characteristic of the genuine sons of the Puritans, was the conduct of the good people of this town, on the present occasion. "The aspects of Divine Providence" in "public affairs" betokening civil commotions, our fathers were ready to humble themselves before God. War might come. How accordant with the dictates of reason and the soundest principles of religion, to look for guidance and direction to a wise and benevolent God!

A town meeting of the citizens of Boston was held

---

\* Church Records, Vol. 1 : p. 42.

† "On the day after the arrival, the fleet [the man-of-war and transports from Halifax] came to anchor near Castle William. Having taken a station which commanded the town, the troops, under cover of the cannon of the ships, landed without molestation, and, to the number of 700 men, marched, with muskets charged, bayonets fixed, martial music, and the usual military parade, into the common. In the evening, the selectmen of Boston were required to quarter the two regiments in the town; but they absolutely refused. A temporary shelter, however, in Faneuil Hall, was permitted to one regiment, that was without its camp equipage. \* \* The lower floor of the State House, which had been used by gentlemen and merchants as an exchange, the Representatives' chamber, the Court House, Faneuil Hall—places with which were intimately associated ideas of justice and freedom, as well as of convenience and utility—were now filled with regular soldiers. \* \* The common was covered with tents. Sentinels challenged the inhabitants as they passed. The Lord's day was profaned, and the devotions of the Sanctuary disturbed, by the sound of drums and other military music."—*Holmes' Annals*, II., p. 158, 9.



November 2, 1772. A large committee—James Otis, chairman—was appointed on the motion of Samuel Adams. This committee was instructed to state the rights of the colonists, and of this Province in particular, as men, as Christians, and as subjects; to communicate and publish the same to the several towns in this Province and to the World, as the sense of this town, with the infringements and violations thereof that have been, or from time to time may be made; also requesting of each town a free communication of their sentiments on the subject. The letter of correspondence to the several towns, closes with these words: "Let us consider, brethren, we are struggling for our best birth rights and inheritance, which being infringed renders all our blessings precarious in their enjoyment, and consequently trifling in their value. Let us disappoint the men, who are raising themselves on the ruin of this country. Let us convince every invader of our freedom, that we will be as free, as the Constitution our fathers recognized, will justify."\* A pamphlet, containing the resolutions of this meeting and the appeal of the committee was printed and extensively circulated through the colonies, but particularly in the towns of the province of Massachusetts Bay. The public mind was aroused. The resolves of the Boston patriots were cordially responded to from the most retired villages in the Province. The citizens of Holden passed fourteen resolutions, making known in the most unequivocal language, their sentiments. The length of this document, alone, prevents me from copying it entire, to be read on the present occasion. Listen to the 1st, 4th, 9th, and 13th resolutions, as exhibiting the spirit which animated the bosoms of our fathers, in those days which "tried men's souls."

\* Holmes' Annals, II., p. 178.

1. "Resolved, That Liberty, both Religious and civil, is a most precious and inestimable gift of the great and glorious Creator of all things, granted to all rational creatures; neither can any person or persons innocently give or sell it away from himself any more than he can take it from another.\*

2. "If any have been so unhappy as to surrender their Liberty, such act of theirs cannot induce any moral obligation of servitude on them personally; especially if they were enslaved by irresistible power; surely then it cannot reasonably bind their successors in every future generation.

3. "That it is to us equally manifest that no one nation, State, or political society, has any right to rule or command another, especially without the consent of the latter.

4. "The people of New England have never given the people of Britain any right of jurisdiction over us; consequently we deem it to be the most unwarrantable usurpation, and view it as an insufferable insult in the British Parliament that they assume a LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY over the American colonies.

5. "We cheerfully profess the most perfect LOYALTY to the King, as having an essential voice in our charter government.

6. "We are assured that no political community on earth can truly enjoy Liberty without civil government; Therefore, civil government is an invaluable divine blessing; and Anarchy is the greatest of public evils—one only excepted; that is a state of complete and confirmed Tyranny.

7. "And such Tyranny is evidently the object of some very recent measures of the British administration and

---

\* Some gentlemen have expressed a wish to see these Resolutions printed, entire

government; particularly those mentioned to us in a letter from our worthy friends, the citizens of Boston; and the project of despotism and arbitrary government appears to be nearly accomplished and settled, so that nothing but the vigilance and combined efforts of this people, under the auspicious Providence of Heaven can save us from abject Slavery and Total Ruin.

8. "Therefore, we are compelled to speak and divulge our sober and very grievous apprehensions, and are willing all mankind should know that we are far from acquiescing in the many gross violations of our just rights, too conspicuous and palpable now to require a particular enumeration, and truly we should be chargeable with very criminal silence, if we did not remonstrate against every glaring attempt of any persons of what Rank or Denomination so ever, to bereave us of our Liberty.

9. "Resolved, That the right of Kings (whether it be a human or divine right) is founded on the same principles of public Liberty, which we assert; and the right of our present Sovereign, George III., to the British throne was explicitly by compact derived from the same principle.

10. "And therefore we must behold them as guilty of treason against his sacred Majesty and his illustrious House, who are making attempts to subvert the liberties of his faithful subjects, as nothing can be more repugnant to the Constitution of England and of this province, than that George should be King of slaves; so if the antiquated doctrine of passive obedience and non-resistance should now revive and move abroad, and half the nation were so blind and infatuate as to embrace such a deformed Monster, the throne must shake and tremble to its base! The Lord Almighty avert the horrid catastro-

phy; to prevent it our prayers and endeavors shall not be wanting!

11. "In publishing our sentiments and resolutions we are moved by natural and Christian benevolence to the good people of Britain, whose prosperity is dear to us as our own. It is therefore our hearty prayer that God would preserve them from the depth of political lethargy and mercifully defend them from the iron FANG of tyranny, as slavery has ever been abhorrant to the Genius of Britain; it must be peculiarly shameful and painful to Englishmen, till we shall have lost the spirit of our truly worthy ancestors, and forfeited the English name. As we are far from suspecting the people of Britain (our old Ally) of being enimical to us, our ardent brotherly love to them is an additional incitement to assert our own freedom; it being very certain that if liberty expires, here, it will not long survive, there; we are therefore ambitious of transmitting our names to all posterity, as favored instruments in the hands of God, of having preserved Britain from destruction, therefore, we supplicate the Throne of Mercy, that God would excite his people in Britain and America to a reformation of morals, because, as sin is the reproach and ruin of any people, so righteousness exalteth a nation to the summit of happiness and glory.

12. "Therefore, Resolved, That there is an intimate connection between the Liberty and Virtue of any people; if Liberty be gone, Religion will infallibly languish to extinction.

13. "We plead for Liberty, because it is the respectable patroness of the liberal arts and sciences. This was doubtless the judgment of our pious and worthy ancestors, who chose a wild desert with Liberty; rather than the fruitful fields and beautiful gardens of their native

land with slavery ; and who were in their first settlement, very zealous to erect a seminary of learning as well as to build and multiply christian churches. We desire to follow their noble example, to promote in our measure learning and liberty, in delightful and harmonious union, and would now recommend it to our children and their successors, forever, to be imitators of us, and of our truly wise, and virtuous and venerable progenitors.

14. "We think it our duty, on this occasion on behalf of ourselves and our dear country, to express our sincere gratitude to the respectable gentlemen of Boston for the light and counsel, they have presented to us in the circular letter, and their many generous efforts in the cause of liberty, and it is our earnest prayer to Almighty God, that they may be animated, still to proceed and that they may prosper according to the desire of their hearts, and receive the most ample and durable reward.

"And, That the above resolves be recorded on the town books of records, and that the Town Clerk give an attested copy to said Committee of Correspondence at Boston.

"The above being put to vote and passed in the affirmative."

<p>"JOHN CHILDS, JONA. WHEELER, ANDREW SMITH, JAMES DAVIS,</p>	}	Committee."
--	---	-------------

"JOHN CHILDS, *Moderator.*"

The way was rapidly preparing for an open rupture between England and her American Colonies. The coercive measures of the British Parliament required the Colonists to acknowledge principles subversive of true liberty. Petitions and remonstrances failed to reconcile the parties. War came. "Disperse—Disperse—you

rebels; throw down your arms and disperse,"\* were the words of Major Pitcairn, as he approached the sturdy yeomanry of Massachusetts, assembled upon the plains of Lexington. Then followed the discharge of muskets. Eight brave Americans fell. The shouts of an exulting foe, and the expiring groans of the dying, were harsh sounds, in the ears of men whose grandsires were Puritans. They were notes of alarm to every genuine lover of liberty throughout the colonies. This town furnished a company of 70 men, ready to leave their homes, at the first alarm.

The population of the town, at that time, numbered about 750.† Nearly one tenth of the entire population was prepared to engage in actual service. During the progress of the war, drafts were made for soldiers from Holden, to serve at various military stations in the Northern States. Wherever troubles existed, or dangers were apprehended, thither marched soldiers from this town. Some went to Rhode Island, others to New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The terms of service of individual soldiers in the common militia, when added, amount to 74 years, supposing it to have been performed by one man, at an expense to the town of £1,961-0s-11d.‡ No reference is made in this calculation to the soldiers in the regular continental army, under the immediate command of Washington. In this army 25 soldiers enlisted from Holden, for the term of 3 years, or during the war. Each one of these men received £20 or more as Bounty money, at the time of their enlistment: So that during the year 1777, £763-0s-12d were paid from the town treasury to discharge the lia-

---

\* Holmes' Annals, p. 204.

† See Note E. ‡ Town Records, vol. 2.—See Note F.

bilities, which had been thus incurred, to enlist soldiers.\*

It would be interesting if time permitted, to narrate the history of each soldier, who went from Holden, to contend with the disciplined troops of England, upon the field of battle. I will allude to a few. Thomas Heard was the only person killed in actual service. He fell near Saratoga, N. Y., and his dead body was borne away by William Ebet. Moses Wheeler and Jeremiah Fuller died at Valley Forge, Penn., having suffered most intensely from cold and hunger. David Potter deserted to the enemy, having previously been saved from the ignominy of a public execution, by the timely interposition of Lady Washington. The conduct of his brother James was far different. He was among the foremost to o'erleap the heights at Yorktown, causing thousands of the British soldiers to surrender, whilst their General, Lord Cornwallis surrenders his sword into the hand of Washington.

Capt. George Webb was the only commissioned officer, in the continental service from Holden. At the time of his enlistment, he was not an inhabitant of the town. He came with his family to this place during the war. Capt. Webb was a fearless soldier, and an high-spirited officer. Whenever an enterprise requiring bravery and skill, was to be undertaken, Washington and Lafayette knew Capt. Webb to be a man to their minds. I hold in my hand the original copy of a letter, addressed by General Lafayette, to Capt. Webb. I will read the first sentence—"Dear Sir—Your successful skirmish had afforded me the most greatest pleasure, and I request you will receive yourself and present to your company my best thanks on the occasion."† It was in the company of

\*State Records.—See Note G.

† Letter found among the *old papers* of Capt. Webb.

Capt. Webb, that Deborah Sampson, an American young lady, served as a continental soldier, for nearly three years. She performed the duties of every station assigned to her, with punctual exactness, fidelity, and honor.\*

The hours of this day would not suffice, for me to rehearse an account of the many bloody battles, and hair-breadth escapes, to the recital of which most of this audience have listened when a Rice, a Rogers, a Potter, a Nash, or a Flagg, would make himself the hero of his story, whilst perchance, he

“Shoulder’d his crutch, and show’d, how fields were won.”

The citizens of Holden entered into a solemn covenant to sustain the committee, chosen to watch for the public safety, and voted that such persons as refused to unite with them should have their names published in the Boston Gazette, as enemies of their country. The town, also, “voted that every blacksmith, shoemaker, miller and housewright do not directly or indirectly do or cause to be done any sort of business, in their respective occupations for any of those persons” who would not sign the covenant, which was to “be lodged at John Abbots’, one month, for the inhabitants of Holden to sign.”† Tradition reports that a Mr. Goulding, living in the south part, was so offended with this measure of the town, that he immediately commenced building the grist mill, and saw mill now owned by Mr. Bennett.

This decided movement was not regarded as sufficient for the general good. To prevent monopoly upon such articles as were considered the necessities of life, the Selectmen, and Committee of Safety were empowered, by an Act of the Provincial Congress to establish ultimate prices.

\*Her Memoirs. †Town Records, vol. 2, p. 15, January 3, 1775.



" Farming labor from the 20th June, not to exceed 3 shillings per day. "

Wheat,	6s 0d	per bushel;
Indian Corn	3s 0d	" "
Spanish potatoes,	1s 1d	" " in the fall;
" "	6s 6d	" " in the spring;
Beans,	6s 0d	" "
Clean flax seed,	6s 0d	" "
Turnips,	0s 8d	per bushel;
Apples,	0s 8d	" "
Horse keeping over night,	1s 4d	
Oats,	0s 8d	per mess;
Lodging,	0s 3d 1f	per night;
Potluck,	0s 8d	per meal;
New England flip,	0s 9d	per mug;
West India flip,	0s 11d	" "
Good grass-fed beef,	0s 2d 2f	per lb.;
New Milk,	0s 2d	per quart;
Tobacco,	0s 7d	per lb.;

A glass of New England rum 2 coppers;

Doctor's travel, 6d per mile—out;

Shop joiner to have 3s per piece for common colored chairs with bottoms;  
*the rest of their work in the same proportion.*"

Among papers belonging to the Rev. Mr. Avery, I have found a small memorandum book, which contains some entries of peculiar interest. The book bears date 1782. That was a period of great distress among the people. The war had been long. Money was scarce, and it was with some difficulty that Mr. Avery received his annual salary. His parishioners, however, were disposed to share with their pastor, the good things of life. "Memorandum of gifts received." "Of Dea. Hubbard, a piece of beef; a pail of soap; a loaf of bread; a few candles; 2 quarts of milk; a cheese and 4 lbs. of butter." "Of Mr. Abbott, a piece of beef and of pork; also a spare-rib; 3 candles; some malt and a piece of bread, also two wash tubs and 30 nails, and a few hops." "Of

\* Town Records, vol. 2, p. 40 & 41. —The above list might be enlarged.

Lieut. Hubbard, a piece of beef, a cheese and some malt." "Of Mr. Ebn<sup>e</sup> Estabrook, a leg of pork." "Of Dea. Fiske, a piece of beef, Jan'y 5th." "Of Capt. Samuel Hubbard, a leg of pork and a spare-rib, Jan'y 6th." "Of Mr. Howe, a piece of pork, Jan'y 6th." "Of Mr. Cheney, a cheese and some sausages." "Of Mr. Josiah Cheney, jr., some beans." "Of Mr. Jona. Rice, a leg of pork." "Of Mr. Winch, a piece of fresh meat—lamb." "Of Capt. Davis, a cheese and some sauce." "Of Aaron Wheeler, a broom, soon after I came to my house." "Of Moses Smith, 2 doz. candles, some butter." "Of Mr. Dryden, 1-2 doz. pigeons."

The ladies of that day were equally thoughtful in regard to the wants of the Parish Priest. "Of Mrs. Benj. Flagg, a cheese." "Of Mrs. Fisk, a lb. of combed flax." "Of Mrs. Elisha Hubbard, some flax." "Of Mrs. Potter, some butter and a broom." "Of Mrs. Newton, a piece of veal and a calf's head." "Of Mrs. Holt, some cloth for a shirt." "Of Mrs. Mead, some butter, apples, potatoes." "Of Mrs. Heard, a loin of veal."

The most abundant evidence might be adduced, to show, that the people of Holden unitedly, cordially, and manfully engaged with their fellow countrymen in the war of the revolution. The trials, hardships, and dangers of eight summer and eight winter campaigns had not quenched the ardent love of liberty in the bosoms of colonists, who could say, "We are 'two millions, one fifth fighting men. We are bold and vigorous, and we call no man master.'"\* It is not a point of uncertain conjecture, but of sober history, that the principles of liberty set forth in the Declaration of Independence had previously been a subject of discussion in almost every village throughout the thirteen colonies. A rough block

\* James Otis.

of granite may be squared and polished, but that block was granite before the stone-hewer's tool and the burnisher's instrument prepared its surface. The 14 resolutions passed by the citizens of Holden, and similar passed by other towns, contained the elements afterwards combined in that memorable document of State, in which the people of this land declared themselves—*Independent, Free, and Equal*. Taking the proceedings and resolves of the inhabitants as evidence of the actual state of things among the colonists, no candid man can rise from their perusal, without the impression upon his mind that each village must have had its Jefferson, Adams, Sherman, Franklin, and Henry.

The immediate and lasting effects of the revolutionary war, upon the interests of this town, deserve a few passing remarks. The unwise policy of England was first felt along our sea-coast. (1.) Numerous families, hitherto obtaining their livelihood from the seas, were driven to other pursuits. For this cause, not less than 10 families removed from Harwich and vicinity (upon the Cape) to Holden. Such were the Rogers settling two miles south. (2.) All lands belonging to persons supporting the cause of the mother country, were confiscated. Many hundreds of acres within this township, were thus transferred to the State. The history of one tract, containing about 600 a., deserves notice. This tract of woodland belonged to William Brattle, Esq., of Cambridge. Under an Act of the Legislature, passed 1781, it was sold to pay State debts. Monsieur Pierre Matthien Andre, captain of the ship Jonathan, belonging to Jean Francis Billou of Marseilles, in the south of France, purchased this tract of land, for £1,124, or about \$6 per acre. The ship Jonathan, having been condemned, as unseaworthy, was sold, and a part of the avails was in-

vested in the purchase of this land. For many years, it was under the care of Ebenezer Estabrook, senior, and subsequently under the care of his son. Sufficient wood, was, from time to time, cut off to pay the taxes. After much negotiation, it was sold in the year 1826, for about \$11 per acre. The proceeds were transmitted to the heirs of the original owner in France; a sufficient amount having been deducted to defray expenses attending the sale. The origin of the name—*French land*, will have been apparent.\*

(3.) The war of the revolution had scarcely been brought to a happy termination, before internal disorders threatened the overthrow of the general government. The insurrection, known in history as the Shays' Rebellion, stands prominent upon the annals of our country. The spirit of disaffection very sensibly disturbed the order and decorum, which almost uniformly has characterized our town. I would now refrain from an allusion to this subject, if our town records, and the voice of tradition were silent. Historical truth, however, often duly checks and properly tempers the glow of admiration, which we sometimes feel when contemplating the patriotic exertions of our fathers. The financial interests of our country were most deplorable, immediately subsequent to the war. Money was scarce. The currency was in disorder. Public and private debts were great, and in some parts of the country the load was well-nigh insupportable.† To remedy a state of things

\* A manuscript volume belonging to William Lincoln, Esq.

† "After eight years of war, Massachusetts stood, with the splendor of triumph, in republican poverty, bankrupt in resources, with no revenue but an expiring currency, and no metal in her treasury more than the continental copper, bearing the devices of union and freedom. \* \* \* \* At length a flood of suits broke out. In 1784 more than 2000 were entered in the county of Worcester, then having a population less than 50,000, and in 1786, about 1700."—See *Lincoln's History of Worcester*, chap. 8.

so undesirable, some of our citizens resorted to the most unjustifiable measures. Their wrath broke forth upon the Courts of Justice. Capt. Wheeler of Hubbardston, the first week of Sept., 1786, heading a band of armed men took possession of the Court House in Worcester. The standard of revolt, being raised, drew some of our townsmen from the duties of quiet and peaceable citizens. The court adjourned until December following. The insurgents flushed with their partial success, returned home, to foment greater commotions. Other portions of the State caught the spirit of discontent. As the time approached for the session of the Court of Common Pleas in December, the insurgents (or Regulators as they styled themselves) headed by Daniel Shays, were gathering their forces in the vicinity of Worcester. The Court, in the mean time, opened at the Sun Tavern, (U. S. Hotel) and adjourned until January 23, without transacting farther business. December 6th, Shays entered Worcester mounted upon a white horse. About 800 troops formed his army. To compose this force numerous soldiers went from Holden. These incidents took place on Thursday. The next day was spent in consultation. A terrible storm of snow occurred Saturday. Gloom and despondency pervaded the bosoms of Shays' soldiers. Such as went from Holden, returned through the drifting snow to spend the Sabbath with their families. Shays conducted the remnant of his forces to Springfield, to interrupt the Court of Common Pleas, about to commence its session at that place.\*

The Governor of Massachusetts called upon the Militia of Boston and vicinity, to march under the command of Gen. Lincoln, and to force the insurgents to surrender. Success crowned the efforts of the constituted authorities.

---

\* See Note H.

Peace was again restored to the country. I have freely spoken of the part taken by some of the citizens of Holden, because I became acquainted with many of the particulars from the lips of a Regulator. In perfect good humor, he gave me a list of such Regulators, as went from Holden, not forgetting to enrol himself.

Resolutions, disapproving the measures deemed justifiable by some of the inhabitants of Holden, were passed by a highly respectable body of men in town. Their names I feel myself honored to read.\* The document, to which they were appended, is supposed to have been drafted by the Rev. Mr. Avery. These gentlemen caused their protest, with some accompanying documents to be published in the Worcester Magazine, for the third week of January, 1787.†

If this was a proper occasion, many palliating considerations might be suggested, which would go far to remove the charge of treason from persons attempting, by military force, to arrest the legal Court sessions at Worcester and other places.

The first meeting-house, exhibiting signs of decay, the question was discussed in Town Meeting, December 10, 1787, "Shall the old meeting-house be repaired, or a new house built?"‡ It was the opinion of the town to build a new house. A committee was appointed to draft a plan and estimate the probable cost. The house was erected during the year 1789.§ Many of this audience

---

\* They were read at the time. † See Note I. ‡ Town Records, vol. 2. § A vote of the Town, May 10, 1790 :

"Voted—That the committee chosen to provide *rum* and *sugar*, to treat spectators at the raising of the meeting-house be appointed to settle with Capt. Davis for the money he laid out for *rum* and *sugar* and to take part of the above said fourteen pounds of fine-money to settle it with."

After the House was completed, and the people had become located in their respective pews, it was provided, that "the wives sit in the seats opposite to, and equal in rank with, their husbands." Also—that the audience should not leave their seats, until the Pastor and Deacons had passed out.

remember to have worshipped in that house, which was rebuilt during the years 1827 and 8. An acre of land, in nearly the centre of which, this house stands, was given to the town of Holden for a public common, and the accommodation of a public meeting-house, 1789, by the Hon. John Hancock.\*

No sooner were the citizens of Holden permitted to worship in their new house, than a vigorous effort was made to erect good and convenient school houses in different parts of the town. In the year 1793, the sum of £400 was raised for this purpose.† It is most interesting to trace in the history of Holden, or any other community, the progress of the gospel and the public instruction of the young. When one is neglected the other languishes. They appear mutually to affect each other.

An unpleasant controversy relating to church music, disturbed the peace of society in town, near the close of the 18th century. Some of the regular attendants upon public worship, refused to occupy their seats in the meeting-house, unless the psalms and hymns could be sung without the aid of the unconsecrated viol and the unhallowed pitch-pipe. The venerable pastor exerted most strenuously his peace-making talents. An uncommon share he was acknowledged to possess. A reconciliation between the parties was effected by the counsel and advice of so wise a mediator.‡ After a few weeks had elapsed, it was discovered to be more than a poetical truth, that

“Music had charms to soothe the *savage* breast.”

We are approaching the limit, where I proposed to

---

\*For and in consideration of the sum of five shillings, and of the love, good will and affection which I have and do bear to the town of Holden, and from a respect to the public worship of God, do hereby give, grant, and convey to the said town of Holden—one acre of land.” The Hon. Mr. Hancock’s deed to the town of Holden.

† Town Records, vol. 2. ‡ Church Records.

close a connected narrative of the history of Holden. The last event in the 18th century deserving notice on the present occasion, is the just tribute of respect paid throughout the country to the lamented WASHINGTON. He died at Mount Vernon, December 14, 1799. Congress recommended and set apart Feb. 22, 1800\* as the day when the nation unitedly might render becoming public testimonials of their sorrow and grief for the illustrious DEAD.

The citizens of Holden observed the day by engaging in appropriate exercises. The military parade was conducted by Capt. George Webb. A long procession passed between files of soldiers, whose inclining heads rested upon their "arms reversed." An eulogy was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Avery. The singing is reported to have been excellent, and was conducted by Mr. Joseph Estabrook. The following lines, set to appropriate music, were sung:—

"From Vernon's Mount, behold the Hero rise,  
Resplendent forms attend him through the skies ;  
The shades of War-worn Vet'rans round him throng,  
And lead enrapt their honored Chief along.

"A laurel wreath th' immortal Warren bears ;  
An arch triumphal Mercer's hand prepares ;  
Young Lawrence 'erst th' avenging bolt of war  
With port majestic guides the glittering car ;

"Montgomery's God-like form directs the way,  
And Greene unfolds the gates of endless day,  
While angels trumpet-tong'd proclaim through air,  
Due honors for the first of men, prepare."

If time could be spared in consistency with the other exercises of this anniversary, I would proceed to narrate historical events which have occurred during the past forty years. A history of the Baptist church; a contin-

\* Washington's birth day.



uation of the history of the Congregational church; an account of our public and private schools; a history of voluntary and benevolent societies; municipal affairs; military movements; masonry; history of the Post Office department; Justices of the peace; Physicians; College graduates; missionaries; and numerous other topics would demand our attention.\*

Some have died among this people, whose memories deserve a grateful recollection. I must ask of this audience the indulgence of a few moments while I speak of the Rev. Joseph Avery. A century has passed since this town was organized, and during one half this period this Reverend gentleman sustained the office of Pastor to this people. He was a son of Dea. William Avery, South-parish, Dedham, and was born October 14, 1751. Before the close of his 16th year, he entered Cambridge University. During the third year of his collegiate course, his mind was uncommonly impressed with the subject of personal religion. His convictions for sin were deep and pungent, so that for a season he ceased to pursue the ordinary studies of his class. During the four years of college life, he ever maintained the character of a diligent scholar and upright young man. He has been heard to remark, that at one period, he was the only undergraduate at the University not addicted to the use of tobacco in some form. He graduated a member of the class of 1771, and had a highly respectable appointment assigned to him for the commencement exercises. With some of his college acquaintance, he held a friendly correspondence long after leaving the hallowed retreats of Cambridge. Dr. Tappan, Hollis Professor at the University, was an intimate friend and correspondent. The Rev. Mr. Avery's settlement in Holden took place Dec.,

---

\* See Appendix

1774. The Rev. Joseph Haven of Dedham, preached the ordination sermon, which was published. In December, 1777, he was married to Miss Allen of Worcester, a neice of *Samuel Adams*. The intercourse of Mr. Avery with his family was uniformly characterized by kindness and affection. The temporal and spiritual welfare of his children was a subject of great solicitude. Family devotions were constant morning and evening, never being omitted on any other occasion than sickness. Saturdays were uniformly spent in making preparation for the Sabbath, and not unfrequently other days of the week. His sermons were usually written. He numbered his sermons until 1816, when the number amounted to 2180; but continued to write until near the close of his ministry. The latest date, is in the year 1822. The number of sermons written during his entire ministry would probably exceed 2300. It is not known that any of his sermons were published. He wrote frequently for the press. The marginal notes and references of Isaiah Thomas's Quarto Bible were examined and compared by him. Mr. Avery's style of writing was pure and chaste, and his doctrinal views evangelical and Calvinistic upon most theological points. Dr. Thomas Scott was his favorite commentator. During the unusually long period of his public ministry in Holden, he ever exhibited the conduct of a peace-making minister of Christ. He was styled a *Peace-maker*. Envious title! Proud distinction! He was never heard to complain of his arduous labors as a pastor. When some of his parishioners desired him to relinquish his pastoral charge, the tears were seen to course his cheeks furrowed by age. He loved the people of his charge, and his love was abiding until the close of his life.

"Nor e'er had chang'd, nor wish'd to change his place."

He was seen in the pulpit until within two weeks of his death, which occurred March 5, 1824\*.

The honored and beloved consort of the venerable parson still lives, being now in the 87th year of her age.†

Having spoken thus of a man, who lived and labored so long and faithfully among this people as a spiritual guide, I will make a few remarks upon the life and character of another individual whose labors as a physician were uncommonly useful to the people of this and the neighboring towns, throughout a period of more than half a century. Doct. Isaac Chenery was born at Medfield, 1742; six weeks after the death of his father. Early in life, he entered the service of his country, as a soldier in the French and Indian War, and spent one campaign to the northward upon the lakes. He received a serious injury upon his ancle soon after his return home. He was under the care of a surgeon, for nearly four years; during which period, he commenced the study of physic and surgery, without having previously enjoyed the advantages of a good education. Blessed naturally with a vigorous constitution and a strong mind, after a few months study, he ventured to offer himself as a practitioner. In 1768 he settled in Holden, and by a faithful, tender and successful care of his patients, soon became extensively known as a physician and surgeon. During the revolutionary war, he spent one year as a surgeon in the army. His charges as a physician were uniform and moderate. In the social, relative and public duties of life, he was beloved and respected. His death occurred Oct. 20, 1822. He had nearly completed his 80th year. When death closed his long and laborious life, many tears of sorrow were shed over an affec-

---

\*Manuscript papers, now in the possession of Esq. White's family, Boylston. † With her daughter, Mrs. White, Boylston.

tionate Father and Friend, by a numerous offspring and acquaintance.\*

The length of time spent in presenting such facts, as I have been able to gather, relating to the history of Holden, will prevent me from indulging in remarks naturally suggested by the exercises of this day.

The citizens of Holden have received abundant blessings, which impressively call upon them on this occasion to be devoutly thankful to God. Honest, intelligent, industrious, and religious ancestors are among the richest of any blessings to any people. Citizens of Holden: God has bestowed upon you that inestimable blessing. The wise man hath well observed, "The glory of children are their Fathers." I have found to be beautifully expressed by another,† my concluding remarks,—"*Look not mournfully upon the past; it comes not back again. Wisely improve the present; it is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy future, without fear, and with manly heart.*"

---

\* Massachusetts Spy Obituary notice. † Professor Longfellow's Hyperion.



## NOTES.

{Note A.—See page 22.}

FIRST INDIAN DEED.

JULY 13, 1674.

Bee it known to all men by this present writing, that Wee, John, alias Horrawannonit, or Quiquonassett, Sagamore of Pakachoge, and Solomon, alias Woonaskochu, Sagamore of Tataessit, together with the consent of our kindred and people, and for and in consideration of twelve pounds of lawful money of New England, or the full value thereof, in other specie, to our content, within three months after the date hereof, well and truly to be paid, and satisfied, and pt. whereof, viz. two coats and four yards of trading cloth, valewed at twenty six shill. wee do acknowledge to have received in hand, as earnest, of Daniel Gookin senr. of Cambr. Esqr. and of Daniel Hinchman, of Boston, Brewer, in behalf of themselves and Capt. Thomas Prentice, and Lt. Richard Beers, and the rest of the Genll. Court's Committee, appointed for the management of a new plantation granted by the said Court, conteyning eight miles square, or the contents thereof, being to the westward of Marlborough, near Quansiquamond Ponds, and on each side of the Roadway leading towards Connecticott; Now know yee, yt wee, ye sd. Jno. and Solomon, Sagamores aforesaid, and upon the terms aforesaid, have bargained, sold, aliened, enfeeoffed, and confirmed, unto ye sd Daniel Gookin, Thomas Prentice, Daniel Hinchman, Richard Beers, and ye rest of the people admitted, or to be admitted, by ye sd committee to be inhabitants of yt new plantation, and

to their heirs, executors, admrs, and assigns for ever, in fee simple, all and every pt of our civill or naturall right, in all and singular the broken up land and woodlands, woods, trees, rivers, brooks, ponds, swamps, meadows, mineralls, or any other thing, or things whatsoever, lying and being within that tract of land, conteyning eight miles square or the contents thereof, to be layd out by ye sd persons or their order in time convenient. To have and to hold the premises, and every pt thereof, unto them the sd Daniel Gookin, Thomas Prentice, Daniel Hinchman, and Richard Beers, and all ye rest of ye sd Inhabitants admitted or to be admitted planters there, and unto ym and yr heirs forever, freely and absolutely, without any lett, molestation, or disturbance, of us, or any of our kindred or people, or any claiming by, from, or under us, for evermore, as our heyrs or assigns; and wee do promise, upon the finishing ye payment to make full and ample deeds and writings for the same, according to law. In witness of the truth hereof, wee ye sd John and Solomon, alias Horrowanonitt and Woonnaskochu, have hereunto set our hands and seals, this thirteenth day of July, 1674.

Signed, Sealed, and delivered in the presence of us,	}	Solomon, alias Woonnasakochu,	
			seal and mark.
		John, alias Hoorrawanwit,	
			mark and seal.

Onnamog, his mark, Sagamore of Occonomesett.

Namphow, his mark, sagamore of Wamesett.

Joseph Thatcher, of Chabanakonchoie, his mark.

Nosannowitt, his mark. Noah Wiswall, present.

Full payment rec'd August 20, 1676. D. Gookin.

This Deed acknowledged by the Sagamores, before Daniel Gookin, Sen. Assist. July 13.

Entered, 9. 2. 83 by Thomas Danforth, R.

## SECOND INDIAN DEED.

FEBRUARY 12, 1677.

Bee it known to all men by these presents, yt we, Anthony, alias Wunaweshawakum, and Abigail his wife, only Daughter and Heyr of Pannasunet, late of Quansicamund; deceased; also Nannuswane, widdow and relict of the said Pannasuned; also Sasomett, and Quassawake his wife, sister to the said Pannasunitt, for and in consideration of full satisfaction in trucking cloth and corn, paid to and received by us, from Daniel Gookin, Esq. Capt. Thos. Prentice of Cambr, and Capt. Daniel Henchman of Boston, pd unto us and each of us, have bargained and sold, aliened, enfeoffed, and confirmed, and by these presents do bargaine, sell, alien, enfeoffe, and confirm, unto the said Daniel Gookin, Thomas Prentice, Daniel Henchman, for ye use of themselves, and all other their partners and associates yt are and shall be admitted Inhabitants and planters, upon a township granted unto ye sd Daniel Gookin, Tho. Prentice, Daniel Hinchman, by a General Court of Massachusetts, at a place between Marlborough and Brookfield, called by the Indian Name Quansicamond Ponds, conteining ye contents of eight miles square, with all the lands, woods, meadows, watercourses, mineralls, or any other matter or thing, within the said tract which in naturall right belonged to us, or any of us, and posses'd of, by the said Pannasunet, Sagamore, or his heirs or kindred wtsoever: To Have and To Hold all the lands, both woodland and brokenup lands, and all ye appurtenances, as aforesaid, to ym the said Daniel Gookin, Thomas Prentice, Daniel Henchman their heirs and associates, yt shall and may duely and legally possess and sett down upon their lands and plantation, and to their heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, for evermore, and the said Anthony, alias Wan-



noshanu hannitt, and Abigail his wife, daughter and only heir to Panasunet, and her mother Nannaswane, and Sasuet and his wife, Sister of Panasunet, being all Indians, and Natives, and Inhabitants, they and their ancestors, of that place and tract of land at Quansicamond Ponds, have good and just naturall right and interest in the said land, and do freely and absolutely sell and alien all the premises aforesaid, unto the said persons and their heirs forever, warranting ye lawful sale herein made, for us our heirs, executors and administrators, or from or by any person wtsoever. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals, this sixth day of the 12th Mo. 1677.

Signed, Sealed and delivered in presence of us,  
John Elliott.  
Nathaniel Gookin.  
Waban, his mark.  
James Speen.  
Simon Betoghom.

Anthony, Signed and Sealed.  
Abigail, Signed and Sealed.  
Nanswan, Signed and Sealed.  
Sasomet, Signed and Sealed.  
Quasonait, Signed and Sealed.

This deed acknowledged by all ye subscribers, and sealed this 6. of Febr. 1677, before me,

Daniel Gookin, Senr. Assist.

Entered, 9. 2. 83. by Tho. Danforth R.

[See page —.]

“ Here follows an account of the Lotts Drawn for *pitches* in the North half part of Worcester, as they were taken out the Hatt by the Moderator according to vote as aforesd to each proprietor is as follows—viz :—

Collel Adam Winthrop	1	Joshua Rice	31
Will Hutchinson }	4	Capt. Prentice	16
upon Ward }		Thomas Leonard	61
Gates, upon Miller	65	Jonathn. Marble	8

Gershom Rice Jun.	72	Wm. Hatchinson }	29
Newton & Britton }	80	upon Jonas Rice }	58
up Jona. Moore }		Jn. Haggitt	26
Ephraim Rice	71	Elisha Rice	62
Josiah Rice	19	Hapgood upon Miller	49
Daniel Heywood	9	John Smith	15
Isaac Wheeler	7	"	62
Jn. Hubbard upon Stark	35	"	56
Jna. Waldo upon Crosby	66	Deacon Rice }	18
John Gray	64	upon Gershom Rice }	68
Jn. Hinchman & Co	11	The Heirs of Danll Childs }	4
"	57	upon Jas. Rice }	39
"	14	Henry Lee }	2
Coll. Smith	51	upon James Rice }	23
Butler's Right	67	Capt. Jones	4
Thos. Bynny	53	"	39
John Gowingding & Co	21	Rev. Jn. Gardner	2
Benja. Flagg	36	Ministerial	23
Gershom Rice	46	School	4
Benja. Flagg Jan.	25	Dickney Sargeant's }	23
Joshua Rice	73	Heirs }	41
Jona. Waldo }	38	Ward	44
upon Mr. Allen }		"	55
The heirs of Thos. Goulding	8	"	50
Aha. Harding }	18	Coll Hatch upon Lee	69
upon Danson }		Moses Leonard	22
Jonathn. Bigelo }	37	James Holding	6
upon Danson }		Hen. Lee upon Hubbard	52
Col. Fitch }	29	Thos. Palmer Esq. }	60
upon Danson }		John Outon and	
Jn. Dowell }	42	Cornelius Waldo }	10
upon Danson }		"	28
Capt. Haynes	70	"	47
James Taylor	59	"	45
Thomas Rice	32	"	24
Jonas Rice	12	"	54
"	33	"	48
Aaron Adams	17	Jn. William Paine	
James Holmes	27		
Danll Bigelo	48		

Gershom Rice, Moderator."

[Note B.—See page 30.]

At a General Town meeting held at Worcester on March 3d, 1739-40.

At said meeting voted that the Northerly part of ye Town Comonly called North worcester agreeable to the

partition line formerly Run be set off a distinct & seprate Township if it be the pleasur of the grate and General Court in Consideration of their grate distance from ye place of publick worship.

Attest John Chandler modrater

A True Coppy as Entered & Examined

pr. Jones Rice T Cler

Worcester, May ye 13th. A. D. 1740.

These may sarty, to yr Honorable General Court that we ye subscribers hearof, Inhabitants of ye North part of Worcester have met together choosen and appointed Mr. John Beglo for us and in our behalf to caray a Petition to ye Honorable Grate and General Court at their Sessions in May Instant praying that we may be set off a distinct and seprate Township according to ye vote which we have already obtained in ye Town of Worcester.

Simon Davis

James Smith

Timothy Brown

Abraham Walton

Samuel Davis

James Cowdin

Jonathan Love

Thomas Broad

John McConkey

Cyprian Stevens

Samuell Clark

James Caldwell

James Gray

William Clark

Joseph Woolley

Jotham Biglo

John Child

William Candon

David Cowdin

benjamin biglo

Thomas Mukemullan

Samuel Hubbard

David Brown

Joseph Hubbard

Samuel Heywood

To his Excellency Jonathan Belcher Esqr. Captain General & Governor in chief in and over His Majesties

Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England. To the Honourable His Majesty's Council & the Honourable House of Representative, Novr. 21, 1740. The Memorial of John Bigelo & Cyprian Stevens for themselves and in behalf of the other inhabitants of the North half of the Town of Worcester humbly sheweth. That the Town of Worcester at their meeting in March last having by a vote then passed, signified their free consent, to dismiss the Inhabitants of the North part of sd Town in order to their being erected into a Distinct Township if this Honourable Court should think fit, and your memorialists made application accordingly at the Sessions in May last, and their Petition was not at that time Granted by the whole Court; but only by a part. Our Circumstances as we humbly apprehend being not fully known. We therefore beg leave to Inform this Honourable Court, That since that time, Several persons have been added to our Number & divers others would have purchased land & settled with us, in case our petition had been then granted. Now in as much as our increase & flourishing have been much retarded for want thereof, and would be much promoted by our being made a Town, and the settlement of a Minister with us, in the meeting house which we have erected, much facilitated, and for want whereof we undergo great difficultys, We humbly entreat your Excellency and Honours will now take our Necessitous case into your wise consideration & be pleased to erect us into a distinct Township; and your humble memorialists as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

John Biglo,  
Cyprian Stevens.

Anno Regni Regis Georgii Secundi decimo quarto.

An Act for erecting the Northerly part of the town of

Worcester, in the county of Worcester, into a distinct and separate Township by the name of Holden.

Whereas the inhabitants of the Northerly part of the town of Worcester, commonly called North Worcester, by reason of the great difficulties they labour under, have addressed this Court to be set off a separate and distinct Township, whereby the inhabitants of said Town have manifested their consent,

Be it enacted by his Excellency the Governor, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same—That the Northerly part of the Town of Worcester, within the following bounds, viz :—bounding South-easterly on the lines dividing the North and South Proprieties of said Town, and is known as the dividing line; westerly partly on the Town of Leicester, and partly on the Town of Rutland; and easterly on the Town of Shrewsbury, be and hereby is set off, from the Town of Worcester, and erected into a separate and distinct Township by the name of Holden, and that the inhabitants thereof be and hereby are vested with all the Powers, Privileges, and Immunities which the inhabitants of other Towns within this Province, do and by right ought to enjoy.

Provided nevertheless that the said new Town shall pay their proportionable part of all such Province and County taxes as are already assessed upon the Town of Worcester, in like manner as tho' this act had never been made.

January 2, 1740. This bill having been read three several times in the House of Representatives, Passed to be enacted.

J. Quincy, Sp.

January 2, 1740. This bill having been read three several times in the House of Represen-

tatives, Passed to be enacted.

J. Willard, Sec'ry.

January 9, 1740. By his Excellency the Governor, I  
consent to the enacting of this bill.

J. Belcher.

In the House of Rep'ives, March 26, 1741.

Ordered that Mr. John Bigelow a Principal Inhabitant  
of a New Town lately erected cut of the Northerly part  
of the Town of Worcester in the County of Worcester  
be and hereby is authorised and Impowred to assemble  
the Freeholders and other Qualified Voters there on the  
first Monday of May next in some convenient publick  
place in said Town in order to their chusing a Town  
Clerk and other Town officers for the Year next Ensuing.

Sent up for concurrence

J. Quincy, Sp'kr.

In Council March 27, 1741 Read & Concur'd

J. Willard, Sec'y.

Consent'd to

J. Belcher.

[Note C.—See page 33.]

#### FORMATION OF THE FIRST CHURCH IN HOLDEN.

"December 22, 1742."

"The following Churches being present with their  
Reverend Pastors and Delegates, viz:—The chh. in Lan-  
caster, Shrewsbury Worcester and Rutland, a church of  
Christ this day was gathered here & the Reverend Mr.  
Joseph Davis was ordained to the work of the gospel  
Ministry and the Pastoral office and charge of this church.

"The Rev. Mr. Buckminster began with prayer.

The Rev. Mr. Burr preached from Isaiah 58 : 1.

The Rev. Mr. Prentice gave the charge, and

The Rev. Mr. Cushing the right hand of Fellowship."

"The persons embodied belonged to the following churches:—

Simon Davis	}	in Rutland.
Joseph Davis		
Cyprian Stevens		
Samuel Hubbard		
David Brown		
John Fletcher		

William Nickols in Reading.

John Bigelow in Worcester.

Jabez Harrington in Weston.

These produced their letters dismissory and recommendatory, before embodied."

The following were received at the gathering of the church: Samuel Pierce, Jotham Bigelow, Samuel Heywood, Joseph Hubbard & Amos Heywood.

N. B. These were propounded sometime before."

[Note D.—See page 40.

EXTRACT CHH. RECORDS.

"December 21, 1774.

The following churches being present, by their Rev'd. Pastors and Delegates, viz: The church in Rutland, Worcester, 1st in Shrewsbury, Paxton, 1st in Dedham, and 2d in Brookfield, the Rev'd. Joseph Avery was ordained here to the work of the gospel ministry and to the pastoral office and charge of this church.

The Rev. Mr. Inman prayed.

The Rev. Mr. Haven preached.\*

The Rev. Mr. Maccarty gave ye charge.

The Rev. Mr. Buckminster gave the right hand of fellowship.

\* The Sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Haven was published.

[Note E.—See page 47.]

## CENSUS OF HOLDEN BY FAMILIES, 1773.

David Winch	5	Wm. Raymond	7
Elijah Rice	6	Dea. David Fiske	8
Masten Holt	5	Sam'l Haywood	9
Moses Sticking	11	James Doda	3
Samuel Grant	6	Rd. Flagg	5
Job Colborn	7	Daniel Black	6
Wm Nickols	10	Benja. Mead	5
John Perry	8	Isaac Bartlett	11
John Obens	2	Isaac Chenery	8
Abra. How	3	Isaac Davis, jun	7
Asa How	7	Nathaniel Shephard	8
Elisha Hubbard	7	John Gleason	7
Elijah Rice, Jun.	6	Peter Goulden	6
Peter Hubbard	8	Samuel Hubbard	7
Wm. Harris	9	Joseph Kingsbury	6
Elisha Mirriek	8	Noah Haven	3
Aaron Newton	3	John Black	5
Joseph Morse	10	Jabez Harrington	11
Sam'l Estabrook, jun	4	James Chenery	6
Thos. Grout	5	Francis Wilson	4
Andrew Smith	11	Jona Howe	6
Dea. Joseph Hubbard	7	Ebenezer Melet	5
Jonas Gafe	11	Joseph Greenwood	5
Wm. Marshall	7	Samuel Estabrook	8
Hezekiah Walker	8	Josiah Cheney	8
Seth Snow	7	Charles Heywood	13
Edmund Hall	4	Amos Heywood	9
John Winch	9	Israel Davis	8
Josiah Broad, jun	4	Josiah Broad	7
John Abbott	12	Samuel Hubbard, jun	8
Josiah Stratton	8	Asa Lovel	4
John Wheeler	4	Peter Noice	2
Abel How	9	Ephraim Holt	5
Henry Taft	9	Bonafel Fisk	6
Benjamin Allen	6	Increase Stearns	9
Paul Goodale	5	Jedah Wright	8
Sam'l. Chaffin	8	Joseph Davis	5
Ephraim Smith	6	Thomas Kimball	8



Stephen White	6	Jeremiah Fuller	5
Jona. Lovell	8	David Perry	5
Moses Wheeler, jun	2	Jesse Allen	5

[Note F.—See page 47.]

“The following is an account of what cost the Town of Holden has been at during the present war *in part.*”

70 men the first alarm at Cambridge, April 19, 1775,	£ 40 s 0
27 men 3 months at Winter Hill, May, 1775,	238 0
12 men 6 weeks at Dorchester, December, 1775,	26 17
18 men 2 months at Dorchester, February 1776,	30 0
18 men 5 months at New York, July 1776,	180 5
3 men 1 year at the Northward, 1776,	103 0
4 men 5 months at Ticonderoga, July 1776,	52 0
4 men 5 months at Boston, July 1776,	30 0
15 men 2 months at New York, September 1776,	63 0
15 men 3 months at the Jerseys, December 1776,	150 0
8 men 8 months at Rhodisland, upon a Request of the General Court, April 12, 1777,	64 0
11 men 6 weeks at Bennington, July 1777,	70 0
15 men 3 months at Stillwater, September 1777,	90 0
7 men 2 months at Providence, May 1777,	28 0
20 men 1 month at Fort Edward, October 1777,	28 0
1 man 6 months to Guard Stores at Brookfield, June 1777,	8 0
2 men 6 months to Guard Stores at Brookfield, Dec. 1777,	12 0
9 men 3 months at Rutland as Guards, March 1778,	27 0
3 men 6 months at Rutland, July 1778,	18 0
4 men 3 months to Dorchester, Sept 1778,	17 0
5 men 9 months to reinforce the continental army, July 1778,	187 10
4 men 8 months to Peekskill, May 29, 1779,	100 0
6 men 9 months to Rhodisland, March 1778,	50 0
8 men 6 weeks at Newport, to reinforce Gen. Sullivan, 1778,	24 0
3 men 6 weeks at Tiver Town, May 1779,	4 15
2 men 3 months at Rutland to Guard, July 1779,	4 10
2 men 3 months at Rutland, January 28, 1779,	8 0
5 men 9 months at West Point, July 5, 1776,	127 10
5 men 2 months at Rhodisland, Sept. 22, 1779,	10 10
8 men 3 months at Claverick, October 2, 1779,	58 16
19 men upon an alarm to Haddley, August 1777,	22 0
2 men at Rutland, April 1780,	16 0

[Note G.—See page 43.]

The following persons are known to have served in the Revolutionary War from Holden.

Those names marked with a star served in the Continental army.

\*Jeremiah Fuller

\*Peter Partridge

\*Ezra Rice

\*David Potter

\*Moses Wheeler

\*Nathan Wheeler

\*Thomas Heard

\*William Flagg

\*Increase Stearns

\*Andrew Allard

\*Thomas Stevens

\*John Griffin

\*David Brown

\*Thomas Kimball

\*John Williams

\*Samuel Roe

\*John Bayley

\*Jonathan Bartlett

\*Jonathan Flagg

\*Simon Peter

\*Barzilla Stickney

\*William Ebet

\*Daniel Perry

\*Philip Boston

John Abbott

John Potter

\*Artemas Dryden

\*Increase Stearns, jr

William Heard

John Dodd

Jabez Metcalf

Johnathan Howe

Joseph Howe

Solomon Parmenter

James Davis, jr

Edmund Davis

Jacob Black

Nathaniel Shephard

Francis Wilson

Samuel Thompson

John Obens

Samuel Hubbard

Isaac Chenery

Sparrow Crosby

Jonathan Moore

\*George Webb

Bezaleel Turner

Jonathan Nichols

Tilla Chaffin

Solomon Davis

Daniel Groat

\*James Potter

\*Thomas Davis

\*Samuel Grant

\*Thomas Wheeler

Aaron Wheeler

Daniel Hiads

Joshua Gale

Simon Stickney

Zillas Stickney

N. B. This list is not supposed to be complete, as it was made from tradition.

[Note H.—See page 54.]

## NOTICE OF DANIEL SHAYS.\*

"This individual acquired an unenviable notoriety which imparts some degree of interest to the incidents of his life. He was born in Hopkinton, in 1747; the son of parents not in affluent circumstances, he worked with Mr Brinley a respectable farmer of Framingham. The activity and energy of his youth promised at maturity more desirable elevation than he attained. That his education was neglected, is apparent from his official letters, bidding defiance alike to government, to grammar, and good spelling. Just before the revolution, he removed to one of the towns beyond the Connecticut river, and afterwards resided in Pelham. When the war commenced he entered the army at the age of twenty-eight, with the rank of Ensign, in Capt Dickinson's company, in Col. Benjamin Ruggles Woodbridge's regiment. His ambition, activity, and the plausible manners covering the want of acquirements, joined with personal intrepidity, obtained promotion, and in 1776, he was appointed lieutenant in Col. Varnum's regiment. At a time when the line peculiarly needed reenforcement, he was detached on the recruiting service, with the promise of some suitable reward for the enlistment of twenty men. For this purpose he visited his native state, and his unwearied exertions were crowned with ample success. When the complement assigned to him was filled, a plan suggested itself for grasping honor and pay at once. Finding the pulse of patriotism beat high, and the young men of New England were ready to devote themselves for their country, he continued his enlistments. Insinuating address and bold representations, produced impressions of his

---

\* The contents of this note are taken *entire*, from Lincoln's history of Worcester, p. 369—371.

ability and influence, easily turned to his own advantage, and by holding out expectations of indulgence to those who should serve under his command, a company was raised, on the condition that he should be their captain. With these men he returned to the camp, where they were mustered. When the inspector was about to distribute them to different corps, Shays produced the enlistment papers; pointed to the condition which held them to serve under himself alone; and requested the appointment of Captain. The necessity of the time prevented the sacrifice of so many recruits, and after indignant remonstrances, it was deemed expedient to yield to his demands. The commission was promised, and issued after long delay, in Sept. 1779, to relate back to Jan. 1, 1777. Such is the account tradition gives of his military rank. The honors, ill won, were not long worn. He was discharged Oct. 14, 1780, at Newark, in New Jersey, from Col. Rufus Putnam's regiment.

The deficiency of honorable sentiment in his mental constitution, may be inferred from a characteristic incident. Lafayette had presented, in 1780, to each of the American officers under his immediate command, an elegant sword. Such pledge of regard from the patriot chief, a soldier with a spark of generous feeling, would have cherished as his dearest possession, and transmitted to his posterity as an heirloom of inestimable value. Shays sold the gift of his commander for a few dollars.

After being disbanded, he retired to Pelham, and lived in obscurity. Bankrupt in fortune and in fame, Shays was ready to embark on the flood of any desperate adventure. Without the energetic decision or enlarged conceptions, the strong spirit or the bold daring, which befit a leader, by some accident, he was elevated to the command of the insurgents. Of capacity too humble to

direct the movements of an army in those moments when the force of talent makes itself felt by triumphant results, and turns even obstructions into encouragements, he was weak, vacillating, and irresolute. It was providential that the physical power of the arm of rebellion had so feeble a head to direct its blow.

With the first shade of adversity, he made indirect overtures to the agents of government, to abandon his comrades to their fate, on assurance of personal safety : and when his base propositions were rejected, and promises of indemnity and pardon were offered to his followers, his persuasions induced them to reject the proffered mercy and retain the arms of hopeless controversy, to purchase by their sacrifice security for himself.

When the insurrection was crushed, he retired to Vermont. After the lapse of a few years, the general of the rebellion, passed through the streets of Worcester, which he once entered at the head of an army, and received assistance from those whose homes he had threatened with desolation.

At length he removed to Sparta, in New York. As a pensioner of the United States, he derived his daily bread from the government, whose forces he had encountered in arms. Declarations filed in the department of war by himself, show that his family consisted of an aged wife, and that he lived in extreme poverty. He died Sept. 29, 1825, aged 78.\*

However much the honor and integrity of Daniel Shays

---

\* He married Nancy Haven, a widow. The schedule of his property in 1820, filed in the pension office, exhibits a condition of almost utter destitution. It is as follows:

1 mare, \$25 : 1 old saddle, \$2 50: bridle, 50: 1 old cutter, \$5: 1 old axe, \$2 1-2 cents: 1 hoe, 62 1-2 cents: 1 table, \$3: 3 chairs \$1 12 1-2: 1 old scythe and snath, 1 12 1-2: 1 old pail, 12 1-2 cents: 1 large bible, \$1: amounting to \$40 62.

were questioned, his courage was never disputed. He was in the battle of Bunker's Hill, at the capture of Burgoyne, and at the storming of Stoney Point; was under Lafayette, and did good service in many bloody encounters. A severe wound, received during the revolution, was honorary testimonial of intrepidity. When Shepard and himself met at Springfield, the former addressed him by the title of general. Shays instantly demanded an explanation, declaring he claimed no rank but that of captain, and added laying his hand on his sword, that if different designation was given, he should consider it insult, and would exact immediate satisfaction on the spot.

An aged inhabitant of Hopkinton, who was schoolmate of the rebel captain, states that he was born on the farm in that town, still called the 'Shays place,' situated on Saddle Hill, about two miles west of the meeting-house; that he made his home there principally, until he removed with his father, to a place beyond Connecticut river, which, as is supposed, was Great Barrington. The estate where his early youth was passed, has long been deserted as a human habitation, and the forest which has overgrown the forsaken orchard is interspersed at regular intervals, with aged apple trees. An estimable and respected clergyman relates, that soon after he began to preach as a candidate, he was employed at Pelham; on the first Sunday of his visit there, he observed a very well dressed gentleman, with a military air, enter the meeting-house: immediately every pew door from the bottom to the top of the aisle was thrown open, and he was received with the most respectful salutations: this distinguished person was Daniel Shays who had just returned to that town, with the par-

don of the government, and lived upon the west side of the east hill. The next day, Shays called on the clergyman, and held long discourse about his labors and sufferings. He said he had been entirely deceived in respect to the feelings of the people: that he had received assurances that if he would collect an hundred men, and march in any direction, multitudes would flock to his standard. Relying on these representations, he began his march with a small force, but found he produced little sensation and that few joined him: at night, he thought it necessary to preserve the appearance of military organization and to mount guard, and ordered a man to stand sentry; 'no I won't,' was the reply to the commander, 'let that man, he is not so sick as I be'; the second man refused, desiring him to take another who was stronger, and the chief of the insurrection found himself without authority at the head of a tumultuary army.

A soldier of the rebellion, who had fled from Springfield to Pelham without stopping and hid his gun under the barn floor, asked Shays why he did not stand his ground? the reply was 'you know, if I had, I must have stood alone.'

The clergyman describes Shays as an agreeable and intelligent person, and the day he spent with him as one of the most interesting of his life.

These particulars have been obligingly communicated by Samuel B. Walcott, Esq. of Hopkinton."

[Note I.—See Page 55.]

## DOCUMENTS FROM THE WORCESTER MAGAZINE.

*Mr. Editor,—You are desired, by a number of the Inhabitants of the Town of Holden, to give the following authentick Papers a place in your next Magazine.*

A true and exact Copy, attested by the Town Clerk, of a LETTER from RUGGLES SPOONER, to the Inhabitants of the Town of HOLDEN, viz.

*To the Inhabitation of the Town of Holden*

Gentlemen

The Request of a Committee of the Body on the Ground is as Follows (viz) that this body Right to each town in This County To Petition to the Governor and Counsell to Liberate Capt., Shattuck and all the men Taken by Government on account of the Late Rising of the People Called Regulators and Confined in any of the Goals in this Common Welth and that the Governor Issue his Proclamation forthwith that no Person shall bee Injured or Molisted in Person or Property, or Here after be taken Molisted or Injured in Consequence of the Late Rising of the People in stoping Courts in this Commonwealth the Courts of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peas May be suspended untill a new Choice of the General Court Takes Place according to the Constitution in Consequence of Which all those that are in opposition to the Present modes of Government and the administration of the Same Promis to Remain Peasable and Quiet in Expectation of having at the Next General Court a new Election Every Immaganary Grievance Displayed by the Light of truth of having Every Real Redress Furthermore that if the Governer Cannot Consistantly Grant the Prayr of the above Petition that his Excelen-



cy Caul the Generall Court to Geather Immediatly For  
the above Purpose      Worcester 7th 1786

Decr

Ruggles Spooner } modarat

We desire that the town may be calld to Geather Imme-  
diately to Conseder of the above Letter and make Re-  
turn to head Quarters Which is at Rutland or on their  
Way to Westown

*The above is a true Copy.*

Attest,

DAVID FISK, Town-Clerk.

*In consequence of the foregoing Letter, the Selectmen of  
Holden granted a Warrant for calling a meeting of  
the Town; the town met accordingly, and adopted the  
following PETITION, viz.*

To his Excellency JAMES BOWDOIN, Esq, Governour and  
Commander in Chief of the Commonwealth of Massa-  
chusetts, and to the Hon. the Council, now sitting at  
Boston.

*The Petition of the town of Holden, regularly assembled  
this 18th day of December, 1786, in order to consult  
upon the publick good in this distressing day, and to  
take into consideration a certain request coming from  
a Body of People under the command of Capt. Shays  
and Capt. Wheeler,*

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That whereas a number of the people in the County  
of Worcester, with a number in other counties, have  
lately arisen, in order to prevent the sitting of the Court  
of Common Pleas and the Court of General Sessions of  
the Peace, by force of arms, which method of proceed-  
ing we view with grief and disapprobation, when other  
means more regular and constitutional might have been  
taken for a redress of grievances, which we apprehend

was their view in rising as abovesaid, and not from a view to destroy government; though we confess that such hostilities, if persisted in, has a direct tendency thereto; but now, from a more mature and deliberate consideration of the matter, we would hope they are sensible of their error in being so hasty in their proceedings, and we trust now would be glad, if they could have an opportunity therefor, to consult the good of this Commonwealth and the majority of the people, and for the future proceed in a more legal and constitutional way; Therefore your Petitioners, from a sense of loyalty, peace and good order, Humbly Pray, that the following request may be granted, viz. That all those men that have been taken by government, in consequence of the late risings of the people, and committed to goal, may be liberated, and that a Proclamation be immediately issued, that no man shall be molested in person or property in consequence of the late rising of the people as aforesaid, so long as they shall remain peaceable and quiet; and likewise that the Courts of Common Pleas and the Courts of General Sessions of the Peace, in the counties of Worcester, Berkshire, and Hampshire, may be suspended until June next, and in order for this we humbly desire that your Excellency and your Honours would call the General Court together immediately. Hoping all publick matters may be over-ruled for the weal and prosperity of this Commonwealth, your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.

*A true Copy,*

*Attest,* DAVID FISK, Town-Clerk.

This Petition to be presented by Mr. Aaron Broad, according to the vote of the town.

*Attest,* DAVID FISK, Town-Clerk.

*As a Vote was obtained for adopting the foregoing Petition, the following PROTEST was made, viz.*

We the subscribers are fully sensible of the folly and impropriety of joining in a Petition to the Governour and Council, agreeably to the request of a number of persons, styling themselves a Committee on the Ground, and dated at Worcester, 7th December, 1786; signed Ruggles Spooner, Moderator, for the purpose of praying for an act of pardon for those people who have appeared in arms since the act of indemnity, and also praying for the releasement of those persons confined in prison for treasonable acts against the government of the Commonwealth :—Because that we apprehend that the Governour and Council have no right, without the legislative body, to make any act of indemnity for any treason done and committed against the government :—And we are not willing, as being citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to ask for what we know the Governour and Council cannot grant by that Constitution of Government which has been established by the general consent of the people. As for the releasement of those persons who have been treasonably guilty of rising in arms, and are now imprisoned for their overt acts, we cannot conceive that we ought to interfere or petition for their releasement, as they have acted with their eyes open, after the government had pardoned their first offence : Therefore we protest against any doings of this town in the matter, or paying any regard to the request of the aforesaid Committee. And as to that part which requests the town to petition the Governour to call the Assembly together, we cannot assent to it, believing him to be the most competent judge of the necessity of convening the General Court.

*John Child,*

*John Abbott,*

*Richard Flagg,  
Samuel Heywood,  
Amos Heywood,  
Paul Goodale,  
Isaiah Brown,*

*Reuben Paddock,  
Noah Haven,  
Samuel Chickering,  
James Davis.*

December 28, 1786.

*A true Copy.*

*Attest, DAVID FISK, Town-Clerk.*

We whose names are under written, inhabitants of the town of Holden, impressed with a sense of our duty, as members of society, and aware that in a crisis of danger, no nerve should be left unexerted to promote and secure the public weal, and being deeply affected with those violent measures, with which this State has been agitated, feel ourselves called upon, explicitly to declare our sentiments, and bear our honest and faithful testimony against those violent and unwarrantable insurrections against government, which have thrown the whole State into confusion, and threatens even the miseries and horrors of a civil war:—We now therefore declare our utter and hearty disapprobation of the conduct of those who have appeared in arms of late, to obstruct, by force, the sitting of the Courts of justice in this State, and that it may be evident that we bear this testimony, not without great and sufficient cause, we give the following reasons, that those insurrections were unnecessary and unreasonable, without any real or supposed object to justify them, tending in their nature to subvert all order and peace in the community, and to rob it of that which is its beauty, strength, and glory—to cut the sinews of government, to sap the foundation of our liberty, and to increase those burdens already complained of by some as intolerable, and to plunge the insurgents themselves, in a labyrinth of woe.—We shall now endeavour to sup-

port what is here advanced, and then shall be able to make our appeal to the world, as to the justice of our present testimony. That the late insurrections were unnecessary, is sufficiently evident from this—whenever any object can be obtained without recourse to arms, then the rising with arms is unnecessary, and if, for instance, it was the evident declared sense of the major part of the people, that there should be an alteration, or an abolition, of any court of justice, it might be effected in a constitutional way; the same may be said of any thing that is regarded as an evil, and which is in the power of the general assembly to remove—therefore it is unnecessary to rise in arms to accomplish any thing the people at large wish to effect, and which is consistent with the constitution they have freely established: The annual election of the various branches of the legislative body, by the people, is a sufficient proof of this. The unreasonableness of the late attack on government, is conclusively argued thus—what has been established by the general consent of the people, for the regular distribution of justice, it is reasonable should be *supported* and *defended*, until the people, taught by experience it is capable of being altered for the better, have made the necessary reform; and it is impossible in the nature of things, that it should be reasonable to pull down by force, what ought in reason to be defended; for reason never contradicts, or is opposed to itself.—We further observe, that to justify a body of people for rising in arms, the evil to be removed ought to be very great—and for the removal of which, all other methods of redress, are upon trial, found ineffectual;—and this can never with truth be asserted by the insurgents, as to the evils they pretend to oppose—and that the late illegal attack on government, is subversive of order and peace

in the community, may sufficiently appear on a moment's reflection; for if one, two, or three hundred men, in one part of the State, may fly to arms, to destroy what is not agreeable to their minds, the same number in another part may plead the same reason, and the force of example in others, to justify them in rising against what they dislike, and so by this means, the State be kept in a perpetual alarm, and peace and order be annihilated among them. We now further remark, that mutual benevolence, harmonizing in measures for the publick good, and mutual confidence, is the ornament and strength of society; but the late violences against government, have produced the most wretched disaffection between neighbor and neighbor, and in some instances, no doubt, between the nearest relations and connexions in life—have confounded every thing like harmony for the publick good—given a pernicious stab to reciprocal confidence in one another, and that these violences tend to cut the nerves of government is no less evident; they are in fact declaring those in authority, to be enemies to the publick good; if not, why in arms against them? So far therefore as it has its natural impression on the minds of the people, it instils and rivets the most wretched prejudices against them—every thing that is said against them is believed—every thing almost that they do, is excepted against, without the ceremony of enquiring into the reasons of it; opposition to them, is estimated rather as a virtue than a vice, and exertions to support government are deemed the strides of tyranny—we may instance here, the exertions of our worthy Governour to suppress the opposition to the regular course of justice; this has produced prejudices against him in many, and bitter invectives from some; though he was bound by solemn oath to defend the courts of justice, and would

have betrayed the trust reposed in him as chief magistrate, if he had taken no measures to this end : It is not to the purpose here, to assert that the courts ought to be abolished ; for the Governour, as such, has no right to withhold his support to the laws of the State, though he himself or many others apprehend they may be altered for the better, until the alteration is actually made by legal authority ; for if he may cease to defend one branch of the government, because of the disaffection of some, he may by the same rule cease to defend another part, for the clamours of others, and so government must sink immediately ; it is clear therefore that what we testify against, tends to destroy the very sinews of government—nor is it difficult to discern its tendency to sap the foundations of our present liberties.—There is no community under Heaven, where the liberty of the people at large is more fully in their own hands. If a government so popular should be destroyed by usurpation, or in other words, by the insurgents, this must naturally issue in a more tyrannical mode of government—moreover it would be wisdom to remember, that if men of ability and property in the State, should be worn down by ineffectual exertions to support the present mode of government, by reason of such insurrections, it will not be strange, if in a future day they should turn and bend all their exertions to bring about a government less free and popular.—The next thing to be supported, will perhaps, particularly apply to our feelings in general, that the hostile measures of the insurgents, tend to increase the burdens already complained of.—These measures discharge no debts, pay no taxes, they produce cost on the part of government for its support, and on the part of the opposition there is loss of time and treasure.—If they do not overthrow the present government, their

burdens will be increased, and if they do, their burdens will be *more* augmented still, by the time another is established—so let things turn as they may, they are to expect an increase of burdens. If it should be replied, that in this way it is expected to remove some things that are impoverishing, to this it is answered, that nothing in this way can be removed that is an evil, which could not be without this accumulation of cost. We now add as to the insurgents plunging themselves in a labyrinth of woe—that if they persevere until the sword decides the controversy, and should they triumph by the dint of arms, they will have the piercing reflection, that many of their friends as well as others are sacrificed to save a comparatively small expence—their property wasted, lost to a great degree, and will experience the most insuperable difficulties; in establishing a government that will preserve them from internal distraction, or foreign invasion; but when we mention their triumph in arms, we esteem an expectation of it as merely visionary, and such an event as is contrary to all human probability. If called into the field of war, where are their resources? Money sufficient to carry on a war they have not; no nation on earth, or individuals of property would lend them this, in the present unorganized state, as there would be almost a moral certainty that they would loose it. If they made paper money, in their present state, they could give it no credit by any thing but the point of the bayonet, and this is no credit at all. They have no system of government to give directions and force to their movements—are greatly deficient in their apparatus for war;—a most formidable force from this, and if need be from the other States, far better prepared than themselves, they would have to combat; the scorn and contempt of foreigners they might expect for



their folly and impolicy ; and what is more than all the rest, the frowns of Heaven, as the guilty cause of bloodshed and miseries, without any thing to justify their hostilities ; so that they might soon expect to lie at the mercy of those, whose resentments would be whetted against them, by the most cruel injuries and insults. As these insurrections therefore, are so totally wrong, impolitick, and of such pernicious tendency, we esteem ourselves as bound in duty, to use our influence to suppress, and prevent them if possible ;—and as yet, we hope that the most tragical events to which they tend, may be prevented. As to the request from a body of men under arms, communicated to this town, waving any observations on what is contained therein, we regard it as impolitick, and unreasonable to grant it—and apprehend a compliance therewith, would be dishonourary and prejudicial to the town ; at the same time declare, that we have full confidence, that if the insurgents will now lay down their arms, and throw themselves on the clemency of government, they will experience this to the utmost extent of what humanity shall dictate, or the safety and honour of the State will admit of, even now when they stand chargeable with having insulted clemency itself.—But as to the small number that have joined that body from this town, we declare our sincere sorrow for them, charitably believe they were drawn into it, by the instigation of designing men, and for the want of knowing the tendency of such measures, and that they have not the destruction of government in contemplation—that in concert with others, they have practically levelled a blow at the very foundation of it ; and if they will now assure the town of a conviction of their error, and their fixed resolution to renounce such measures, it will not only afford us the sincerest pleasure, but induce us, if

desired, to use our friendly influence, that they may experience the clemency of government, and share in common with us, the blessings and protection of good government. We close with expressing our fervent wishes, that every unnecessary burden may be prevented, and every necessary one speedily lightened ; that benevolence friendship, and union, may pervade this and every State in the union ; that peace and tranquility may be restored where interrupted—good government supported, and justice executed in them—that the smiles of propitious Heaven may attend them, and the latest posterity may rejoice in a fair inheritance, transmitted to them through succeeding generations.

*John Child,  
Richard Flagg,  
Samuel Heywood,  
Amos Heywood,  
Reuben Paddock,  
James Davis,  
Isaiah Brown,  
Thomas Knowles,  
John Abbott,  
Paul Goodale,  
Samuel Chickering,  
John Dods,  
George Webb,  
Jonas Hubbard,  
John Holden,*

*Israel Davis, jun.  
Edmund Hall,  
Asa Greenwood,  
James Dods,  
Joseph Hubbard,  
Joseph Hubbard, jun.  
Tilly Hubbard,  
Samuel Hubbard,  
Elnathan Davis,  
Sam. Heywood, jun.  
Samuel Damon,  
Benjamin Flagg,  
Lemuel Abbott,  
Aaron Newell,  
Abel Howe.*



## APPENDIX.

---

**MUNICIPAL OFFICERS—CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH—PASTORS  
AND DEACONS, CONG. CHURCH—BAPTIST CHURCH—PAS-  
TORS, BAP. CHURCH—GENTLEMEN'S AND LADIES' MISSION-  
ARY SOCIETY—JUDAH WRIGHT—SOCIETY FOR DETECTING  
THEIVES—TOPOGRAPHY—JUSTICES—LAWYER—COLLEGE  
GRADUATES—MISSIONARIES—POST MASTERS—PHYSICIANS  
—MASONRY—MILITARY AFFAIRS—SCHOOLS—POPULATION  
—VALUATIONS—MANUFACTURES—THINGS IN GENERAL.**

---

### MUNICIPAL OFFICERS....1741—1841.

#### TOWN CLERKS.

Cyprian Stevens,	1741—46.
Samuel Heywood,	1747—51.
Samuel Peirce,	1752, 54—57.
Joseph Greenwood,	1753.
Israel Davis,	1758—74, 78—81.
John Childs, jr.,	1775—82.
David Fiske,	1783—86, 88, 89.
Noah Haven,	1787.
John Dodd,	1790—1801.
William Dodd,	1802.
Paul Davis,	1803—20.
Paul Davis, jr.,	1821—41.

#### SELECTMEN.

Simon Davis,	1741—43.
--------------	----------

John Biglo,	1741—46, 48—51, 55, 56, 61.
Cyprian Stevens,	1741, 44—46.
Samuel Thompson,	1742, 54.
Samuel Peirce,	1743, 46, 48—52, 56—58.
Samuel Heywood,	1744, 48—51, 59, 60, 64, 66.
David Brown,	1745.
Samuel Hubbard,	1747, 53—55, 57, 62, 64.
Jonathan Lovell,	1747, 52, 59, 60.
William Nichols,	1747.
Richard Flagg,	1752—58, 60, 63, 79, 80.
Israel Davis,	1753—55, 58—60, 63—71.
Joseph Hubbard,	1753—55, 61, 62, 64—67, 72, 73.
Joseph Greenwood,	1753, 61.
James Boyd,	1756—58.
Amos Heywood,	1756, 57, 62, 63, 80.
John Child,	1758, 62—67, 70—76.
Benjamin Howard,	1759.
Bezaleel Fiske,	1759, 60.
Jonathan Rice,	1761, 67—71, 74—76.
David Fiske,	1761, 62, 69—71, 77, 78, 83.
Jonathan Wheeler,	1763, 72.
Isaac Smith,	1765.
Benjamin Mead,	1765—71, 73—75, 79.
Paul Raymond,	1768, 69, 73—77.
Ignatius Goulding,	1768.
Andrew Smith,	1772.
James Davis,	1772—79, 84.
Moses Smith,	1776—78, 80.
John Child, jr.	1777.
Jason Gleason,	1778, 79, 88.
John Perry,	1778—81.
Samuel Thompson,	1780, 82, 83.
Elisha Hubbard,	1781—83, 86, 87.
Noah Haven,	1781, 83.

Francis Wilson,	1781, 87.
John Child,	1782, 83.
William Nichols,	1782.
Josiah Stratton,	1782, 88—91.
Ebenezer Estabrook,	1784—86, 88, 90, 91, 94, 98—1803.
Henry Taft,	1784, 89—91.
Israel Davis, jr.	1784—87.
Elisha Myrick,	1784, 85.
Nathan Harrington,	1785.
Isaac Chenery,	1785, 86, 88, 89.
John Dodd,	1786, 94—97.
Samuel Hubbard,	1787, 92—95, 98—1801.
Isaiah Brown,	1787.
John Davis,	1789, 90—97.
David Smith,	1789—97.
George Webb,	1792, 93.
Samuel Damon,	1792—97.
William Drury,	1795—97, 1801, 05.
Peter Hubbard,	1798—1800.
Lemuel Abbott,	1798—1806.
Elnathan Davis,	1798, 1802—04.
James Dodd,	1799, 1800.
Joseph Daniels,	1801, 03.
Tilla Chaffin,	1804—08.
Asa Wheeler,	1804—09.
Ethan Davis,	1805—17.
Heman Richardson,	1806—11.
Samuel Heywood,	1807—11.
Asa Greenwood,	1809—18.
Lemuel Davis,	1810—14.
John Chaffin,	1812—16.
Abner Perry,	1812—15, 20—26.
Silas Flagg,	1815, 17—26.

Paul Davis, jr.	1816—19.
Samuel Damon,	1816—21, 27—31, 36.
James Bailey,	1818, 19.
Daniel Knowlton,	1819, 20.
John Davis,	1820, 21.
James Estabrook,	1821—24.
William Metcalf,	1822—26, 30.
Samuel Foster,	1822—25.
William Flagg,	1825—28.
Thomas I. Davis,	1826, 34—31, 40, 41.
Thomas Howe,	1827—29, 31, 32, 34, 35.
Samuel W. Hubbard,	1827—29.
Farnum White,	1822—31.
Charles Chaffin,	1829—35, 41.
George Flagg,	1830—33, 40, 41.
Tilla Chaffin, jr.	1831, 33.
John Lovell,	1832, 34.
John F. Smith,	1832.
Dennis Davis,	1833.
Barney Howe,	1833, 37.
Stillman Estabrook,	1834—36.
John M. Goodale,	1835, 36.
Joel Walker,	1836, 37.
Paul Davis,	1837, 38.
Willis Smith,	1837—39.
Jacob Howard,	1837.
Samuel D. Greenwood,	1837—40.
Jonathan Chaffin,	1837—39.
John Jepherson,	1838.
Lyman Bryant,	1839, 40.
James Winch,	1839, 40.
James S. Moore,	1841.
John Richardson,	1841.

## ASSESSORS.

Samuel Clark,	1741.
Samuel Pierce,	1741, 43, 46, 48—52, 56—58.
Samuel Heywood,	1741, 44, 48—51, 59.
Simon Davis,	1742.
John Biglo,	1742, 44—46, 48—51, 55, 56.
Samuel Thompson,	1742, 54.
William Nichols,	1843, 47.
Cyprian Stevens,	1743—46.
David Brown,	1745.
Samuel Hubbard,	1747, 53—55.
Jonathan Lovell,	1747, 52.
Richard Flagg,	1752—58, 60, 61—64.
Israel Davis,	1753—55, 59, 60, 63.
Joseph Hubbard,	1753—55.
Joseph Greenwood,	1753, 61, 62, 65, 66.
James Boyd,	1756, 58.
Amos Heywood,	1756, 57, 61, 62, 64—67, 69—71, 80.
Bezaleel Fiske,	1759, 60.
Isaac Bellows,	1762, 64, 68.
Jonathan Wheeler,	1763.
Benjamin Mead,	1765, 68.
John Child, jr.	1766—69, 75—77, 82.
David Fiske,	1767, 69—71, 77, 78, 83—85, 87, 88.
Jonathan Rice,	1770, 71.
James Davis,	1772—76, 79, 82, 84, 1806.
Ignatius Goulding,	1772, 73.
Andrew Smith,	1772—74.
Elisha Hubbard,	1774—78, 81—83, 86, 87, 89, 90, 1801—5.
Isaac Chenery,	1778.
Noah Haven,	1779, 81, 83, 84, 91, 92.
Francis Wilson,	1779.
Ebenezer Estabrook,	1780.



Paul Goodell,	1780, 81, 87.
Isaiah Brown,	1785, 86.
John Dodd,	1785,—1800.
Paul Davis,	1788—1800.
Elijah Rice, jr.	1788.
John Davis,	1789.
George Webb,	1783.
William Drury,	1794—1805, 07—17, 23, 34.
James Dodd,	1801—1803.
David Smith,	1804, 05.
Jonathan Flagg,	1806—10.
Asa Greenwood,	1806—17.
Lemuel Davis,	1811—14.
Ebenezer Estabrook,	1815, 22—25,—27.
Paul Davis, jr.	1818, 22—33, 35—41.
Samuel Damon,	1818, 22—24, 35, 36.
Ethan Davis,	1819—21.
Abner Perry,	1819—21.
Silas Flagg,	1825—33.
William Metcalf,	1828, 29.
Dennis Davis,	1830—33.
William Flagg,	1834.
Seth White,	1834.
Willis Smith,	1834—36.
Thomas J. Davis,	1837, 40.
David Boyden,	1837, 38.
Ira Broad,	1838, 41.
Joel Walker,	1839, 40.
John Richardson,	1839.
Samuel D. Greenwood,	1841.

## TOWN TREASURERS.

William Nichols,	1741, 43, 45.
------------------	---------------

John Biglo,	1742, 50.
Samuel Thompson,	1744.
Samuel Heywood,	1746—49.
Israel Davis,	1751, 56—58.
Joseph Hubbard,	1752—55.
Jonathan Lovell,	1759.
Bezaleel Fiske,	1760, 61.
Samuel Hubbard,	1762—72.
Nathan Harrington,	1773—83.
James Davis,	1784—91.
Elisha Hubbard,	1792—1803.
Elnathan Davis,	1804.
Ethan Davis	1805, 06, 08—26.
Samuel Damon,	1827—39.
Paul Davis,	1840, 41.

## DELEGATES TO PROVINCIAL CONGRESS.

- "Jan'y. 3, 1775—John Child chosen delegate to a Provincial Congress, to be held at Cambridge, the 1st day of Feb'y. next."
- "May 20, 1775—John Child chosen to Represent the Town in the Provincial Congress, to be held at Water Town the 31st instant."
- "July 5, 1775—John Child chosen to Represent the Town in the Great and General Court, at Water Town the 19th instant."
- "Oct. 3d, 1776—James Davis chosen to the Great and General Court at Water Town, Oct. 9, 1776."
- "May 19, 1777—James Davis chosen to the Great and General Court at Boston, May 28th."
- "August 2d, 1777—Richard Flagg chosen to sit in Convention at Cambridge, to form a CONSTITUTION."

## REPRESENTATIVES SINCE 1780.

John Child, jr.	1780, 82, 83, 90.
Rev. Joseph Davis,	1781.
Israel Davis, jr.	1786.
Josiah Stratton,	1787.
John Dodd,	1792, 93, 95, 96, 98, 1800, 01.
William Drury,	1802, 05—13, 20.
Elnathan Davis,	1803, 04.
Ebenezer Estabrook	1814—16, 19.
Ethan Davis,	1817, 21, 26.
Samuel Damon,	1823, 24, 31—33.
Silas Flagg,	1828, 29, 35, 38, 39.
Asa Broad,	1830, 31.
Charles Chaffin,	1832—34.
Paul Davis,	1834—36.
John Chaffin,	1831.
Willis Smith,	1837.
Tilla Chaffin,	1838, 39.
John Richardson,	1840.

---

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

This was the only religious society in town for nearly seventy years. The earlier settlers were orthodox congregationalists, so far as their religious tenets can be ascertained from ancient records or tradition.

Organization of the first chh. and settlement of first minister—See Address, page 23, 33, and notes, p. 71.

The "Halfway Covenant" system existed from the foundation of the church, until 1809. This was an arrangement by which such parents as were not in communion with the church might enjoy the privilege of

having their children baptized, "by owning the covenant."

#### COVENANT.

We whose names are hereunto subscribed, inhabitants of Holden, apprehending ourselves called by God; into the church-state of the gospel,

Do first of all confess ourselves unworthy to be so highly favored of the Lord, and admire his free and rich grace which calls us hereunto; and then, with humble reliance and entire dependance on the assistance of his grace and Holy Spirit therein promised for them; that, in a sense of their own inability to do any good thing, do humbly wait upon him for ALL; we do thankfully lay hold on his covenant, and solemnly enter into covenant with God and one another according to God.

We declare our serious belief of the christian religion as contained in the sacred scriptures, acknowledging them to contain the whole revealed will of God concerning our Faith and Practice, heartily resolving to conform our lives to the rules of that holy religion as long as we live.

We give up ourselves to the Lord Jehovah, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the only true and living God, and avouch him this day to be our God, and our portion forever.

We give up ourselves to the blessed Jesus, who is the Lord Jehovah, and adhere to him as the Head of his People in the covenant of God, and rely upon him as our Prophet, our Priest and our King, to bring us unto eternal blessedness.

We acknowledge our everlasting and indispensable obligation to glorify God, in all the duties of a Godly, sober, and righteous life; and particularly in the duties of a church-state, and a body of people associated for an obedience to him in all the ordinances of the gospel, and we thereupon depend upon his gracious assistance for our faithful discharge of the duties incumbent upon us.

We engage, with dependance on his promised grace and spirit, to walk together as a church of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the Faith and order of the gospel, so far as we shall have the same revealed unto us, conscientiously attending the worship of God, in praying to him, singing his praises, giving reverent attention to his word, read and preached according to his institutions, the Sacraments of the New Testament, the discipline of his Kingdom, and all his holy institutions, in connexion one with another, and watchfully avoiding all sinful stumbling-blocks and contentions, as becomes the Lord's people in covenant with him.

At the same time, we do also present our offering with us unto the Lord,

purposing with his help, to do our part in the method of a religious education, that they may be the Lord's.

And all this we do, flying to the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant for pardon of our many errors, and praying that the glorious Lord Jesus, who is the great shepherd, would prepare and strengthen us for every good work, to do his will, working in us that which shall be well pleasing to him, to whom be glory forever and ever. *Amen.*

During the period that *this system* prevailed, 119 persons owned the covenant. December 18, 1809, the following vote was passed, "That the method of owning the covenant as practiced in this church, should be laid aside, none hereafter to enjoy the privilege of Baptism for their children, when neither of the parents are in full communion; with this exception, that those who have already owned the covenant should not be cut off from the privilege they have possessed heretofore."

From near this period, a more cautious and rigid system was adopted respecting the admission of persons into the church.

No articles of Faith had hitherto been adopted. January 4th, 1811, it was voted to have a confession of Faith, and unanimously to accept of one drawn up by the Pastor, [Rev. Mr. Avery.] But strange as its may appear, it was not recorded, and no trace of it can now be found.

The year 1809 was distinguished for the first general revival of religion. The work extended its influence to both societies. Tradition reports that it commenced among the Baptists living in the southwest part of the town. About 70 persons, by profession united with the Cong. Church. The next general revival occurred 1817, when more than 80 united with the church.

The Rev. Horatio Bardwell was installed as the junior Pastor of the church, Oct. 22, 1823.

The following minutes are copied from the records of

a church-meeting held Jan. 3d, 1824 :—"As no copy of the articles of Faith which this church have received can be found—Voted that the Pastor be requested to prepare such articles as he shall judge expedient; also, that he revise the form of church covenant, and present a copy of each at the next church-meeting, for the consideration of the church, and for their adoption should they approve."

June of the same year, "at a full meeting of the church both female and male, the ten articles of Faith, and the form of covenant were harmoniously adopted—

*Articles of Faith and Form of Covenant adopted by the  
Congregational Church in Holden, June, 1824.*

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. WE believe that there is but one God, the Creator, Preserver, and moral Governor of the universe; a Being of infinite power, wisdom, justice, goodness, and truth; the self-existent and immutable fountain of goodness.
2. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God; that they are profitable for doctrine, for correction, for reproof, and for instruction in righteousness; and that they are our only rule of doctrinal belief and religious practice.
3. We believe that the scriptures teach that the mode of divine existence is such, as lays a foundation for the threefold distinction, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and that these three are one in essence, and equal in power and glory.
4. We believe that God at first created man in a state of moral rectitude; that he voluntarily disobeyed the law of his Maker, and thereby fell into a state of sin and death; and that, in consequence of this first apostacy, the hearts of all men are by nature entirely destitute of holiness; and so far as they are capable of moral action, they are in a state of positive disaffection with the law, character, and government of God.
5. We believe that Jesus Christ, by his obedience, sufferings and death, made atonement for sin; that he is the only Redeemer of sinners; and that all those who are saved will be wholly indebted to the grace and mercy of God, for their salvation.
6. We believe that although the invitation of the gospel is such, that

whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely, yet the wickedness of the human heart is such, that no man will come to Christ, except the Father draw him.

7. We believe that those who embrace Christ by a living faith, will never finally perish ; but in fulfilment of God's eternal purpose of grace, by which they were chosen in Christ, before the foundation of the world, He will enable them to persevere to the end.

8. We believe that there will be a general resurrection of the bodies both of the just and of the unjust; that all must appear before the judgment-seat of Christ, to receive a just and final sentence of retribution, according to the deeds done in the body; and that at this day of judgment, the state of all will be unalterably fixed; and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be endless.

9. We believe that Christ has a visible Church in the world, into which, none in the sight of God but real believers, and none in the sight of man but visible, have a right of admission.

10. We believe that the Sacraments of the New Testament are Baptism and Lord's Supper; and that visible believers only have a right of admission to the Lord's Supper; and that they and their households are the only proper subjects to whom baptism is to be administered:

---

#### COVENANT.

You do now, in the presence of God and man, avouch the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to be your God—the object of your supreme love, and your portion forever. You cordially acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as your only Savior, and the Holy Spirit as your Sanctifier, Comforter and Guide. You humbly and cheerfully devote yourself to God, in the covenant of grace. You consecrate yourself and all you possess to his service and glory; and, through the help of divine grace, you promise that you will deny all ungodliness and every worldly lust—that you will live soberly, righteously and godly, even unto death.

You do now cordially join yourself to this Church of Christ, engaging to submit to its discipline, and to attend on its worship and ordinances, according to the rules of the gospel; and that you will walk with its members in Christian love, watchfulness and purity. Thus you covenant, promise, and engage.

We do now, as a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, receive you into our communion, and promise to watch over you with Christian tenderness and affection, ever treating you in love, as a member of the body of Christ.

This we do, imploring of the great Shepherd of Israel, that both we and you may have wisdom and grace to be faithful in his covenant, and glorify him with that holiness of life which becomes his house forever.—AMEN.

---

In 1825, an unusual attention was paid to religion, and about 30 joined the church.

The autumn of 1829, and beginning of 1830, was marked by a most extensive and powerful work of grace. Both societies shared its blessed influence. About 150 united with the Cong. Church.

In 1831, there was a revival bringing about 20 into the church. The Spring of 1834, some families in the north part of the town, and the adjoining part of Princeton, were unusually awakened to the subject of religion. During the autumn of 1835, there was uncommon religious interest, as the results of which, about twenty united with the church. In the Spring of 1838, about twenty expressed a hope of having experienced a saving change, most of whom have since united with the church. The winter of 1840-41, was greatly distinguished for a spirit of engagedness on the part of professors, and of anxious inquiry among persons not members of the church. Thirty have already united with the church, and it is believed many more will feel it to be their duty and privilege to enter into solemn covenant with God.

The present number belonging to the church is about four hundred and thirty, nearly two-thirds of whom have been received within twelve years. There is but a single member of the church now living whose membership commenced last century. This individual is Mrs. Mary Avery, the wife of the second pastor of this church. Her connection commenced in 1776.



## PASTORS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

**Rev. JOSEPH DAVIS.** (*See Address.*)

The following inscription is copied from his grave-stone:

This monument is erected in  
memory of the Revd JOSEPH DAVIS,  
who was born at Concord July 16  
1720, ordained first Pastor of  
the Church in Holden Decr 22d 1742,  
where he labored many years in  
the work of Gospel Ministry.  
He was the man of science and a  
zealous, pungent Preacher. The affec-  
tionate husband. The tender parent.  
The kind neighbor, and the cordial  
friend. Died March 4th 1779."

A strong and animated faith in the truth  
of the gospel was the great solace and  
anchor of his soul.

**Rev. JOSEPH AVERY.** (*See Address.*)

The following inscription is copied from his grave-stone:

SACRED  
to the memory of  
the Revd JOSEPH AVERY,  
who was born at Dedham  
A. D. 1751.  
GRADUATED  
at Harvard University 1771.  
ORDAINED  
Pastor of the Church of Christ  
in Holden Decr 1774.  
With sweetness of disposition  
and ministerial faithfulness  
he united  
an uncommon share of prudence  
and wisdom.  
After near fifty years  
of laborious service as a minister  
of the gospel in this place, he  
rested from his labors  
March 5, 1824,  
Aged 72 years.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

**Rev. HORATIO BARDWELL.** He was born at Belcher-  
town, Nov. 3, 1788. A. M. Dart. Coll. 1814. Andover  
Theo. Sem. 1814. Missionary in India under the Amer-

ican Board six years. Installed as Junior Pastor of this church Oct. 22, 1823. Dismissed, Spring, 1833. At present Pastor of the Congregational Church in Oxford.

REV. WILLIAM P. PARNE. He was born at Ashfield, Aug. 1, 1802. Entered Am. Coll. 1823. A. B. 1827 and A. M. 1830. Tutor at Amherst College one year, 1830. Graduated at Andover Theo. Sem. 1832. Settled in Holden Oct. 24, 1833.

Married to Miss Sarah Mack, of Plainfield, Mass., June 9, 1834.

## DEACONS.

\* William Nichols, chosen January 13, 1743.

\* Samuel Pierce, " " " "

\* Joseph Hubbard, " August 6, 1755.

\* David Fisk, " March 31, 1762.

\* Noah Haven, " April 2, 1783.

\* Israel Davis, " July 31, 1793.

\* Elisha Hubbard, " " " "

Peter Rice, " June 1, 1810.

\* Seth Clapp, " " " "

\* Joshua Fairbanks, " April 3, 1818.

\* Isaac Fisk, " " " "

Silas Flagg, " September 30, 1825.

John Lovell, " " " "

Silas M. Hubbard, " March 1, 1839.

---

\* Deceased.

## BAPTIST CHURCH.

The records of the Baptist church and Society do not bear an earlier date, than the present century. Tradition reports that Mr. John Perry, living upon the farm known as the *Perry farm*, was the first person of this denomination belonging to the town. The records of the town partially confirm the voice of tradition. An article was inserted in the warrant for the town meeting, to be held May 5th, 1788, "To see if the town will answer the petition of Mr. John Perry and others of the *Baptis* belonging to said Holden." The vote of the town in reference to this article reads as follows: "Voted not to allow the petition of Mr. John Perry and others of the *Baptis* belonging to Holden." From other records upon the town books it appears, that this petition related to the abatement of taxes, to be raised for the support of the ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

The records of the Society commence Monday, June 4, 1804. Ephraim Mirrick was chosen Moderator. John Hubbard, Clerk. Asa Howe, Collector. And Ephraim Mirrick associate deacon, when no deacon was present from Templeton. The Rev. Elisha Andrews, Pastor of the Baptist Church in Templeton, preached in town for some years before a church was organized. Baptist church members here were regarded as a branch church of the Bapt. ch. in Templeton.

Mr. Andrews was a man of uncommon talents, as a preacher, although having never enjoyed the advantages of a public education. He is reported to have been remarkably happy, in the expository style of preaching. In 1805, he preached every fifth Sabbath, and 1808 every fourth Sabbath.

March 12, 1809 it was voted, that Bro. Gates take

the lead of the meeting 2 Sundays, and Bro. Allen one, in the absence of Mr. Andrews."

Oct. 22, 1807. Voted "to send a letter and request to be dismissed from the church in Templeton and be formed into a separate church,"

The minutes of the organization of the Bap. church follow *entire*.

"Holden Dec. 31 1807. At an Ecclesiastical Council, holden at the dwelling house of Brother Abraham Gates. [David Parminter, present owner.]

*Present*.—From Harvard—Elder George Robinson, Dea. Ephraim Emerson, Charles Chase, Jeremiah Dyer.

From Leverett—Elder Elijah Montague, Peter Ripley,

From Sutton—Elder Samuel Waters, Dea. Moses Putnam, Solomon Marble, and Jonah Golding.

A moderator and clerk were chosen and after solemn prayer, by the Moderator, proceeded to business. After mature deliberation and careful examination the Council voted unanimously to constitute into a distinct church, the following Brothers and Sisters, viz:—Aaron Perry, Ephraim Mirrick, Hezekiah Walker, Abraham Gates, John Hubbard, Solomon Parminter, Asa Howe, Silas Walker, Charles Brooks, Eli Hubbard, Benj. Hubbard, Jotham Howe, Thomas Howe, Samuel Abbott, John Walker, Paul Colburn, Thomas Marshall, Daniel Shepard, Pelatiah Allen, John Brown, William Everett, Polly Sargent, Lydia Parminter, Lydia Hubbard, Mehitabel Colburn, Hannah Howe, Sally Howe, Polly Walker, Lydia Parminter, jr., Polly Hubbard, Elenor Howe, Polly Henry, Lucretia Howe, Nancy Brooks, Polly Buck, Patty Caldwell, Sarah Pratt, Sarah Mason, Rachel Walker, Dorothy Howe, Tabitha Perry, Thankful Mason, Lucy Walker, Eunice Metcalf, Judith Gates, Persis Walker, and Nabby Shepard.

And the said Brothers when constituted into a church aforesaid, shall be known by the name of the

**BAPTIST CHURCH, IN HOLDEN.**

Voted that the Moderator of the Council give the right hand of fellowship, to the aforesaid Brethern in token of our Fellowship with them as a church in SISTER RELATION.

Signed by order of the Council,

**GEORGE ROBINSON, *Mod.***

**Elisha Andrews, Scribe."**

**ARTICLES OF FAITH.**

1. We believe there is one God, who is a spirit eternally the same. A Being infinitely holy, just, and good, filling all space with His goodness; essentially happy in the possession of himself. John 4: 24. Deut. 6: 4. Ps. 90: 2. Gen. 17: 1. Ps. 115: 3.

2. That he has revealed himself in his word to be Father, Son and Holy Spirit in which word He hath given us a perfect rule of Faith, and Practice. 1 John 5: 7. Matt. 28: 19. 2 Cor. 13: 14. John 1: 14, and 18: 15. 26. Gal. 4: 6. 2 Tim. 3: 15. 16. Gal. 18: 9.

3. We believe that God did in the beginning create worlds and beings by the word of his power, and doth uphold the same: that he created man holy, but man did willingly rebel, and transgress the law of his Creator, and thereby has lost his moral rectitude and has become sinful in all his parts, both of soul and body, and his posterity have by natural generation derived the same sinful dispositions and have become by nature the servants of sin, and subjects of temporal and eternal death, and that God by his kind providence doth overrule all events for his own glory. John 1: 1. 2. 3. Rom. 1: 20. Col 1: 16. Gen. 2: 1. 2. Heb. 1: 3. Isa. 46: 10. 11. Ps. 13: 5. 6.

Gen. 1 : 17. Eccle. 7 : 29. Gen. 1 : 27. and 3 : 12. 13. 2 Cor. 11 : 3. 1 Tim. 2 : 14. Rom. 3 : 23. and 5 : 12. Titus 1 : 15. Gen. 6 : 5. Jere. 17 : 9. and 6 : 17. 20. 23. Heb. 2 : 4. Hosea. 1 : 6. 7. Isa. 25 chap.

4. We believe that man being thus dead, his recovery is only in God, and that by his eternal purpose of Election did choose a number in Christ to eternal Salvation, and that Christ did in the fulness of time take on him human nature, (sin only excepted) lived a holy life, died an accursed death on the cross, was buried, rose, accended [and] ever liveth to make intercession, for us. Hosea, 13 : 9. Eph. 1 : 4. 1 Pe. 1 : 2. 2 John 1 : 14. Rom. 8 : 3. Heb. 2 : 14. 15. 16. 17. and 7 : 26. Gal. 3 : 13. Luke 23 : 53. and 24 : 6. Acts 1 : 9.

5. We believe that the Holy spirit of God proceeding from the Father and the Son, only can and doth make particular application of the merits of Christ to every elect soul, and that he hath by the same Spirit convinced us of our lost, sinful, and undone condition and gives us grace to believe in Christ, who is made of God unto us, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and eternal redemption. John 16 : 7. 13. 14.

6. We believe that the life of religion consists in the knowledge of God, and conformity to him in the inward man, which necessarily produces an external conformity to his laws and ordinances and union and fellowship one with another. John. 17 : 3. Eph. 3 : 10.

7. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are institutions of Christ to be continued till his second coming and that the former is requisite to the latter, that is, such only are to be admitted to the communion of the church as have on profession of their faith, been baptised by immersion. Matt. 28 : 19. Mark 16 : 15. 16. Acts 8 : 36. 37. 38. Rom. 6 : 3. 4. 1. Cor. 11 : 23. 24.

8. We believe that the sole government of the chh. is in Christ and that it is he and he only that can qualify and send forth laborers into his vineyard; and doth call his chh. into the kingdom of his grace and by his spirit doth gather them in particular churches; and hath given them power under him to govern their own members. Isa. 9: 6. Gal, 1: 12. 15. 16: Rom. 8: 30. Ezek. 34: 11. Eph. 2: 17. Acts 26: 18. Rev. 3: 7. Heb. 3: 7. Eph. 2: 19. 22. Mat. 16: 9. John 20: 23.

9. We believe that brethren in christ ought not to go to law one with another. 1 Cor. 6: 1—7.

10. We believe that a Bishop or Elder by virtue of ordination hath no right to be moderator or scribe of the chh. or to claim or exercise any more power in the government of the chh. than any private brother, from the nature of his office as described in scripture.\* Matt. 28: 19. 20. Mark 16: 15. 16. 1 Tim. 4: 12. 16. 2 Tim 4: 2. 1 Pe. 1: 2. 3.

---

December 17, 1810---The chh. "voted \$20,00 a year for 5 years, to Thomas Marshall for the use of his shed chamber, to meet in, for worship."

Mr. Marshall lived in the house now occupied by Farmer White in Eagleville.

"Aug. 30. 1812. Bro. Marshall consented to preach one half of the time."

In 1813, Mr. Andrews preached 1-8 part of the time, and during the same year, such members of the chh. as belonged to Sterling and West Boylston withdrew to form a church.

Thomas Marshall was ordained Sept. 15. 1813.

Number of members in the chh. at different periods.

---

\* This article has subsequently undergone some modification.

Admission.	Number.	Admission.	Number.
1811	96	1826	134
Aug. 1820	161	1830	162
1821	171	May. 1833	151
1822	111*	Aug. 1835	168
1823	112	1836	176
1824	115	1838	221
1825	145	1840	200

The first Baptist Meeting-House was built 1819—20. The building has since been refitted for a dwelling-house.

The Society was organized agreeably to the laws of the Commonwealth, March 15, 1828.

No person regarded as member of the society who does not pay annually the sum of \$1,00 or more into the treasury.

"Feb. 16. 1838. Voted to build a new meeting house," which was dedicated Jan. 1836. In the year 1839 Mr. Willard M. Hubbard died, leaving \$1000 to the society. The interest of \$400 to be paid for the maintenance of singing and of the remaining \$600, for the support of the gospel.

#### PASTORS OF THE BAPTIST CHH. IN HOLDEN.

1. Rev. ELISHA ANDREWS.—see history of the Chh.
2. Rev. THOMAS MARSHALL preached during the years intervening between, 1813 and 1818.
3. Rev. JOHN WALKER. Mr. Walker was born May 20, 1789. (His father resided in the north part of Holden.) The early part of his life was passed upon his father's farm. During the autumn of 1804, his mind became interested in the subject of personal religion, and in March, 1805, he made a public profession of his faith in Christ. In Oct. 1812, commenced preaching, licensed Aug.

\* 65 had been dismissed who belonged to Leominster, Princeton &c.



2, 1813; ordained Oct. 30, 1816. and Feb. 2, 1818, was recognized as Pastor of the chh: which relation continued until April 1, 1831.

Mr. WALKER, soon after his dismissal removed to West Sutton, where he labored in the work of the gospel ministry until April, 1836. From a letter addressed, by Mr. Walker to the compiler, the following is an extract. "I took up my Pastoral relation [West Sutton] with an expectation of emigrating to the *far west!* but a long and tedious journey of nearly 4,000 miles satisfied me that my constitution would not bear the climate. My labors commenced with the first Baptist chh. in Barre, in October, 1836. My Pastoral relation, in Nov. of the same year. About 200 were added by baptism to the chh. in Holden and its branches while my ministry continued there, and I have been privileged to baptize over fifty upon a creditable evidence of their faith in a risen Savior during my relation with the chh. in West Sutton and in this place."

4. Rev. APPLETON BELNAP, was ordained to the work of gospel ministry and Pastor of the Bapt. chh. in Holden, June 13, 1832. He preached his last sermon in town Oct. 27, 1833, having relinquished the duties of a Pastor to continue his theological studies.

5. Rev. GEORGE WATERS, was ordained Pastor of the chh. Sept. 25, 1834, and resigned his office here, March 31, 1838. He is now settled over the Bap. chh. in Sterling.

6. Rev. SAMUEL EVERETT, recognised as Pastor of the chh. Aug. 9, 1838, and dismissed April 19, 1839.

7. Rev. ANDREW POLLARD, is the present Pastor of the church. He is a native of Harvard, Mass. For a time he was Pastor of the Bap. chh. South Gardner. He was installed here, Aug. 12, 1840.

## GENTLEMEN'S AND LADIES' MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

The object of this Association is to collect money which may aid the operations of the American Board of Com. for Foreign Missions. It was established in 1824, by the active exertions of the Rev. Mr. Bardwell. Collectors are annually appointed to solicit subscriptions from all persons disposed to favor the object of Foreign Missions. This Association is Auxiliary to the Worcester Co. Central Missionary Association.

The collections taken at the Monthly Concert pass to the treasury of the American Board through the officers of this Society.

The following sums have been contributed during the last ten years:

A. D.	Gentlemen's Association.	Ladies' Association.	Month. Concert.
1831	\$161 40	\$105 00	\$ 75 33
1832	137 75	96 00	127 35
1833	90 09	81 62	123 45
1834	106 63	82 30	86 17
1835	85 12	71 40	125 73
1836	104 72	81 50	74 60
1837	153 48	105 81	117 71
1838	96 09	77 85	85 06
1839	89 52	77 00	79 79
1840	186 56	136 84	88 58
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$1211 51	\$915 32	\$983 77
			Total, \$3110 60

The average annual amount contributed by the Congregational Church and Society, for Foreign Missions, during the last ten years, is \$311 06.

NOTE. The above statistical account of the annual contributions for the cause of Foreign Missions, will indicate the exertions usually made by the citizens of

Holden, in behalf of such objects as are worthy the consideration of an enlightened and Christian community.

The compiler has not the materials necessary to make a fair and average account of the annual contributions in aid of the Bible, Tract, Education and other benevolent Societies.

---

### JUDAH WRIGHT.

At the Centennial Celebration a hymn was sung, "composed by Mr. Judah Wright, a venerable citizen of Holden, seventy years of age, suffering under the infirmity of blindness from infancy."\*

Some reader of these pages may be desirous of acquiring additional information respecting *the blind man who wrote those verses*.

Mr. Wright is a native of Holden, and was born April 1, 1774. His father then lived upon the farm now owned by Mr. Timothy Parker. He was deprived of sight in infancy, in consequence of a disease of the eye, called the *cataract*.

His father died when he was about twelve years of age, and his mother was left with slender means of support. For many years she was dependent upon her blind son Judah, who was able to obtain a comfortable livelihood for himself and widowed mother, by making baskets. The trade of basket making and a kindred employment, *bottoming chairs*, he has laboriously pursued through a long life.

He has ever exhibited an intense desire to acquire knowledge. It may be confidently asserted that few per-

---

\* See page 6.

sons have been better acquainted with the passing events of the age. Mr. Paul Davis, (who lived upon the *Landlord Paul Davis's hill*,) for nineteen years, was accustomed to read the Massachusetts Spy to Mr. Wright.

The compiler heard him make the remark, that "during that long period, nineteen weeks were not omitted. Mr. Davis would begin and read the paper through "like a book," omitting only a few advertisements. It was often my practice to bottom a chair while the paper was read."

The years intervening between 1801—6, Mr Wright humorously styles as his *Collegiate Course*. During this period he often visited the family of the Rev. Mr. Avery, whose amiable and accomplished daughters were ever ready to assist a noble mind struggling with difficulties. They exhibited the treasures of their father's library to the view of their sightless visitor. Numerous persons have been found who have kindly rendered him similar aid, and some have acted as his amanuenses. For the aid thus rendered, he expresses the most unfeigned gratitude.

His theological and historical reading is quite extensive. He was lately heard to remark, "I don't think much of making baskets only *to make* them : my thoughts are generally occupied upon theological subjects, or the history of the world." In conversation, he exhibits a familiar acquaintance with the best English poets.

In 1812 he published a pamphlet entitled "POEMS UPON VARIOUS SUBJECTS," and in 1823, "*ALONZO'S DREAM : or an Allegorical representation of the light in which faults and misfortunes are frequently viewed by the unthinking part of mankind.*"

The following are selections from his printed and manuscript productions :

## HISTORY OF HOLDEN.

## THE BLIND MAN.

Though darkness still attends me,  
It aids internal sight,  
And from such scenes defends me.  
As blush to see the light.

No villain's smiles deceive me ;  
No gilded fop offends ;  
No weeping object grieves me ;  
Kind darkness me befriends.

Who painted vice desires ;  
Is blind, whate'er he thinks ;  
Who virtue not admires,  
Is either blind or winks.

Then hence these useless railings ;  
I know no reason why—  
Mankind to their own failings  
Are all as blind as I.

---

## ON SPRING.

Hail! joyful Spring, at thy return,  
The fields and forests cease to mourn ;  
All nature bids thee welcome here :  
The northern winds and snowy squalls  
Forebear to blow, or cease to fall ;  
And hills long covered now appear.

The sun dissolves the ice and snow ;  
The streams their channels overflow,  
To cheer and fertilize the soil :  
The trees assume their summer garbs—  
The earth bedeck'd with flowers and herbs,  
On all her children seems to smile.

The cattle from the barn releas'd,  
Partake of a delicious feast ;  
The playful lamb, and sprightly calf—  
The stately ox, and bounding steed,

In flow'ry pastures sport and feed,  
And from the chrystal fountains quaff.

The feather'd songsters now return,  
And join to usher in each morn  
With music in harmonious lays;  
With joy through fields and groves they fly,  
Each with the other seems to vie,  
In chanting their Creator's praise.

While beasts and birds with insects join,  
To praise munificence divine:  
Let man the lord of all below,  
According to his station raise,  
The sacred song of solemn praise,  
To him from whom all blessings flow.

The plants and trees in gayest bloom,  
To beauty add a sweet perfume;  
And form delightful walks and bowers,  
Protected from the scorching heat,  
Where friends and lovers fondly meet,  
And sweetly pass their leisure hours.

The meads with grass and flowers adorned—  
The verdant woods and fields of corn—  
The flocks and herds upon the plain;  
Meandering streams and purling rills,  
Descending from adjacent hills,  
Conspire to beautify the scene.

---

#### ON THE MILLENNIUM.

Alas! to what a wretched case  
Has sin reduced the human race! "  
This world though once pronounced good,  
By sin became a field of blood.

Ambition, pleasure, lust and pride,  
With avarice our time divide ;

Reserving none for us to spend,  
In duties to our God or men.

But for our comfort we're informed,  
A lasting calm succeeds the storm.  
Events foretell the time is near,  
When these dark scenes shall disappear.

When Satan's power shall be restrained,  
And peace on earth in triumph reign,  
The righteous then shall here enjoy,  
True happiness without alloy.

Religion then shall be refined,  
From error freed in lustre shine:  
The Jewish outcasts gather'd in,  
And own, with Gentiles, Christ their king.

Impostures and idolatry  
Shall cease, and Christians all agree;  
The young and old, with one accord,  
Delight to serve and please the Lord.

Those weapons which have long destroy'd,  
The human race, shall be employ'd  
To cultivate a fruitful soil,  
And plenty shall reward their toil.

The fertile plains shall be no more  
Delug'd with floods of human gore;  
For war throughout the world shall cease,  
And this creation live in peace.

The cow, the bear, the wolf and sheep,  
Together safely feed and sleep;  
Their young ones shall lie down at rest,  
The strong shall not the weak molest.

A little child shall also lead  
The leopard, fatling, calf and kid;  
And play with safety near the den,  
Where pois'nous serpents lurk within.

For none shall injure or destroy,  
But all promote each other's joy;

For true benevolence and grace,  
Shall actuate the human race.

The weak no more the strong shall dread,  
And knowledge shall the earth o'erspread,  
As waters fill the spacious seas,  
And gladness fill each heart with praise.

## ON DRUNKENNESS.

(1812.)

Oh! how disgusting is the sight,  
When drunkards reeling through the street,  
In laughter fawn or anger fight,  
And pour contempt on all they meet.

If ardent spirits fail at home,  
To shops or taverns they repair,  
And drink till sense and strength are gone;  
Then reeling homeward bound they steer.

But injured limbs and bruised heads  
Forbid them farther to proceed,  
The open street becomes their bed;  
This is a dismal sight indeed.

Exposed to danger, here they sleep  
Until their faculties revive;  
And then with slow and awkward steps,  
At length each at his home arrives.

With clothes besmear'd with filth and mud,  
See how they shiver with the cold!  
Their faces bruise'd and stain'd with blood,  
What horrid figures to behold!

But oh! the feelings of a wife,  
Whose heart is pierc'd with sorrow through,  
To see her dearest friend in life,  
Himself and family undo.

But her entreaties, tears and sighs,  
Will not his vicious heart restrain:



In vain his neighbors all advise;  
He feels no sense of sin or shame.

His children, wearied with abuse,  
Provok'd and driven to despair;  
Of freedom make improper use,  
And soon forget to love or fear.

At length the wretched man becomes  
A burden to himself and friends;  
Yet still this sinful race he runs,  
Till like a brute his life he ends.

Ye who indulge your appetite,  
And laws of temp'rance daily break,  
Take warning by this awful sight:  
May you this fatal snare escape.

Will you destroy yourselves and friends—  
Exchange your honor for disgrace—  
Expose yourselves to endless pains,  
And all to gratify your taste?

Poor are the pleasures which you gain  
At such a vast expense as this;  
For hours of pleasure, years of pain,  
If not the loss of future bliss.

---

A lady once asked Mr. Wright "if he could exercise as strong AFFECTION for others as though he could see them?" In a few days he made the following reply:

Were you by some arrangement plac'd  
Where with propriety you might  
By sundry persons be address'd,  
Without the privilege of light,  
Some might be bold, in manner rude,  
And some the fop, or fool display,  
Some calculating, cold and shrewd,  
And others gallant, brisk and gay,  
Some sprightly, affable and kind,

Unblemish'd by seductive art,  
 Evincing cultivated mind,  
 With warmth and purity of heart.  
 Could you do otherwise than make  
 A preference, though you did not see?  
 I may, as well, your method take;  
 Remember 'tis but dark to me.  
 The rosy cheeks and piercing eyes,  
 The skin that with the lily vies,  
 The slender form and graceful step,  
 These beauties all are hid from me,  
 Save by imagination's light,  
 By which I easily can see  
 The charms they must present to sight.  
 But there are beauties of the mind  
 Which form and features far excell,  
 The feeling heart and taste refin'd,  
 On these with pleasure I can dwell.  
 These fade not with the charms of youth;  
 In frost of age they still are green;  
 And are to those who relish truth,  
 As sweet at sixty as sixteen,

---

## ON PRESENTING A ROSE TO A CHILD.

Fair as the rose which I present,  
 May your unfolding mind expand,  
 With virtues grateful as the scent,  
 As apt to please, as free from stain.  
 Like this among the thorns you are,  
 Expos'd to raging winds and storms,  
 And foes who will not beauty spare,  
 Tho' in the most engaging form.  
 With care I did the rose protect,  
 Lest any should my hope destroy;  
 And prudence must your steps direct,  
 If you would happiness enjoy.  
 By yonder verdant bush behold,

A rose which yester morn like these,  
Its beauties promis'd to unfold,  
And smiling visitants to please.

But plucked ere 't was fully blown,  
Disrob'd and rudely thrown away;  
It lies forsaken on the ground,  
A useful monitor to thee.

So I have seen a blooming maid,  
Like Eve in Eden's grove beguil'd;  
Thoughtless she listen'd, was betray'd,  
And then received frowns for smiles.

O, may it never be your lot,  
To fade untimely like the rose;  
Or prove by folly's shades, or spots,  
The grief of friends, or sport of foes.

Tho' youth and beauty's fairest forms,  
Like roses transitory are;  
Yet virtue has unfading charms,  
Which time itself cannot impair.

---

### SOCIETY FOR DETECTING THIEVES.

THE object of this Society may be learned from the preamble to the Constitution.—“As energy, vigilance, and union are highly expedient to suppress *the sons of violence*, often found in society, the persons whose names are hereunto annexed, do agree to form themselves into a society for the purpose of detecting thieves and recovering stolen property.”

The Constitution was adopted Feb. 23, 1818.

Persons are admitted by vote of the Society, or approbation of President, Secretary, and one of the Standing Committee, and when admitted, each individual must

pay the sum of seventy-five cents into the hands of the Treasurer for the use of said Society.

Clergymen in town have usually been elected honorary members of the Society.

The Constitution has been variously modified since its adoption.

The Society at present, when duly organized, consists of a President; the duties of Secretary and Treasurer are performed by the same person; a Standing Committee and a Pursuing Committee.

The funds of the Society, (January 4, 1841,) \$123,86.

#### ORIGINAL MEMBERS.

James Estabrook,	Paul Davis, jr.,
Doct. John Smith,	Caleb Kendall,
Asa Greenwood,	William Drury, jr.,
Asa Broad,	Joseph Crosby,
Benjamin Davis,	John P. Maynard,
Lemuel Davis,	James Estabrook, jr.,
Samuel Damon,	James Winch,
George Flagg,	James Davis,
Silas Flagg,	Jonathan Estabrook,
Jervis Abbott,	Ethan Davis,
Francis Winn,	Artemas Dryden,
Samuel Turner,	Farnum White,
Daniel Knowlton,	Ebenezer Estabrook,
Samuel W. Hubbard,	Jonas Chaffin,
Joel Glezen,	Royal H. Chaffin,
John M. Smith,	John Chaffin.

## TOPOGRAPHY.

THIS township originally had a diamond or rhombic figure. Its four sides were all straight, and those opposite nearly equal; its angles, two obtuse and two acute. In 1765 some hundreds of acres were taken from the S. W. side to form the township of Paxton; and in 1808, another portion was taken from the Easterly side to form the town of West Boylston.

Its present bounds are as follows:—commencing at the N. W. angle, (at a stake and stones in a swamp, westerly from E. & E. Mead's house:) thence North 56 deg. East, 899 rods, by Rutland line, to a stone post at Princeton corner: thence N. 56 deg. E. 1204, (making a straight line 2103,) thence S. 12 1-2 deg. E. 630 rods, by Sterling, to a stone post on West Boylston: thence 71 1-2 deg. W. 104 rods, by West Boylston, to a stone post: thence S. 5 deg. E. 1652 rods, by West Boylston to Worcester: thence the Worcester line runs S. 57 deg. W. 1521 rods, to a stone post at Paxton: thence, by several small angles on the Paxton and Rutland lines, to the first mentioned bound.

The soil of the town is various, and its surface much diversified with hills and valleys. The different kinds of forest trees are, pines, white and yellow; oaks, white, red, and black; hemlock, horn-beam, maple, ash, chestnuts and walnuts. An area of fifty acres can scarcely be found containing a homogeneous soil, or a plain surface. "The land in the out-skirts of the town is the most springy and natural to grass. The general products are rye; Indian corn, and oats. When there is a failure of crops, it is generally owing to other causes than the nature of the soil." (*Whitney's His.* 189.)

## HILLS.

*Malden Hill*—(called by the early settlers *Mt-Carmel*) is situated in the east part of the town. It is covered with wood and timber, and only a small part is under cultivation. A granite quarry has been improved on the easterly side of this hill.

*Pleasant Hill*. Tradition reports this hill to have been an Indian encamping ground. It has a rich soil and produces great crops of grass and grain—now owned by S. W. Hubbard and son. [See page 24.]

*Grape-Vine Hill*—(so called by the first settlers). It is situated in the N. W. part of the town. The soil is excellent and well adapted to tillage and pasturage. It is now owned by John Estabrook.

*Champlain Hill*. This hill is situated in the westerly part of the town, and derives its name from the circumstance, that several acres were clear of forest trees when first visited by the early settlers. Subsequently the Capt James Davis place.

*Pine Hill*. It is situated partly in Paxton and partly in Holden. Its principle value consists in a growth of pine timber.

*Hasnebumskit Hill*. This hill is situated in the S.W. part of the town. It presents a beautiful appearance when approached from the north. Cultivated fields and pasture-lands extend to its very summit. Iron ore and sulphur abound upon this, and Pine hill, so that the magnetic needle will not *traverse* in their vicinity.

*Stone-House Hill*. This hill is situated in the south part of the town. Its steep and rocky sides are difficult of access, rendering the soil unfit for cultivation. In "olden times" it was a renowned resort for rattle-snakes. The name, *Stone-House*, was given to the hill in conse-

quence of a natural *house* or *shed*, in the southern part formed by the projecting rocks.

The Regulators, during the period of *Shays rebellion* made this a place of rendezvous.

#### RIVERS AND BROOKS.

*Quinapoxet River.* It is the principal river in the town. It has three branches. (1.) North Quinapoxet River is formed by the union of streams issuing from Quinapoxet and Muscopauge Ponds. This branch passes the North and Quinapoxet Factories, and unites with the (2) South Quinapoxet, rising in the Hasnebumskit Pond, in Paxton. The last mentioned stream passes Eagleville, Dryden's, Jepherson's, and Lovell's manufacturing mills. These branches unite in Mr. Thaddeus Nichols's *intervale*, thence running through Perry's and Watson's *intervals*. (3.) Cedar Swamp Brook rises from numerous springs in the southerly part of the town, passing Hinds' and Hill's mills, and Lee's cotton factory, and unites with the Quinapoxet River, in the Estabrook *intervale*. This river thence passing Sheldon's mills, becomes a branch of the Nashua River, which empties into the Merrimack River near Nashua, N. H.

A small stream rises in the south part of the town and becomes a branch of the Blackstone River.

NOTE. In the *meadow*, near Mr. Sam'l Howe's house, two streams rise. One becomes a tributary of Merrimack River, the other of the Blackstone River. The former emptying into the ocean at Newburyport; the latter into Narragansett Bay, at Providence, R. I.

The surface of Quinapoxet Pond is 717 ft. above tide-water; and Quinapoxet River, at the West Boylston line, 483 ft. above the same level. Of course, the fall of Quinapoxet River, in Holden, would be 234 ft.

## JUSTICES.

* John Childs, jr.	appointed	September 19, 1776.
* John Dodd,†	"	March 29, 1793.
William Drury,	"	June 9, 1802.
* Lemuel Davis,	"	March 5, 1804.
* James Estabrook,	"	March 3, 1809.
* Ebenezer Estabrook,	"	October 24, 1814.
* Ethan Davis,	"	June 18, 1817.
Samuel Damon,	"	July 2, 1828.
Silas Flag,	"	February 23, 1833.
Charles Chaffin,	"	February 23, 1833.
Paul Davis,	"	March 25, 1840.

\* Deceased.

† The following interesting incidents were furnished by a son of John Dodd, Esq., in a letter to the compiler:

"Mr. James Dodd was born in the north of Ireland, in the year 1724. His father died when he was about the age of 12 or 14 years, and he was apprenticed to an older brother who was a manufacturer of Linen Goods. In consequence of ill treatment by his brother's wife, he threatened to leave his brother unless she treated him with more kindness, which he carried into effect shortly after.

An American vessel came into port and he made known his grievances to the Captain, and requested he would take him to this country; informing him at the same time, that he had no money, but would work his passage. The Capt. consented, and was to hoist a signal when he was ready to weigh anchor, and Mr. Dodd was to go to the wharf and swing his hat, and the Capt. was to send a boat for him, which was done. Soon after, the vessel was hailed by some one on shore to know if they had any one on board that did not belong there; to which the Captain replied that he had no one but his crew. On his arrival in this country, about 1741 or 2, having neither friends nor money, (as all he took with him was a small bundle of clothes which he tied up in a handkerchief,) he made immediate application to William Shirley, then Provincial Governor of Massachusetts, who at the time resided in the town of Dorchester, and who immediately procured a loom and set him to work. His fabric was of so fine a texture that the Governor sent a portion of it to England as a specimen of American product and manufacture, the first that went from this country; for which the spinner and weaver each received a *Joe* [\$17,14,] as a premium for their skill. After a year or two's residence in this country, Mr. Dodd became acquainted with a Miss Mary Houston, who at the age of 8 years, came over to this country from the north of Ireland with her father, mother, three brothers and three sisters, and settled in Maine." \* \* \* \* \*

He was married "in the year 1747, to the aforesaid Mary Houston, and



## LAWYER.

*Jason B. Blackington.* Native [of Attleborough. Brown University, A. B. 1826. He commenced the practice of law in town, 1829, and continued here between two and three years. He is now at the West.

---

## COLLEGE GRADUATES.

Jonathan Fisher, H. U. 1792.  
 Joseph Cheney, B. U. 1801.  
 Abraham Wheeler, Wm's C. 1810.  
 Abel Manning, B. U. 1817.  
 Moses Winch, A. C. 1827.  
 Elnathan Davis, Wm's C. 1834.  
 David Fiske, A. C. 1834.  
 John Foster, A. C. 1834.  
 William Howe, Waterville C. 1834.  
 Merrill Richardson, M. C. 1835.  
 Henry G. Darling, Wm's C. 1835.  
 Samuel D. Darling, Wm's C. 1836.  
 Samuel C. Damon, A. C. 1836.

---

settled in Bedford, where they resided until about the year 1757. During their residence in Bedford, they had three children, viz: William, who was born in 1747, James in 1750, and John in 1755. From Bedford they moved to Lexington, where they purchased a small place and resided for six years; sold it in 1763, and purchased a farm of about 300 acres in Holden, now occupied and owned by Deacon Rice, Oliver Knowlton, Sam'l Stratton and the widow Parker. This place was purchased with specie, which he took up in his saddlebags; and he sold out again in the year 1776 or 1777, with the intention of moving down to Maine, among his wife's relations, but never carried this project into effect; as he was soon after taken sick, and died in May, 1778. In the spring after he sold his farm, he sold off all his stock. For the farm and stock he took pay in continental money, most of which was kept on hand until it was entirely worthless. During his residence in Holden he purchased a farm in Princeton for his eldest son William, which he gave to him, and remarked at the time, that the Homestead (which he subsequently sold for continental money,) would answer for James and John. Thus the two younger children were almost entirely cut off."

## MISSIONARIES.

**DEACON ISAAC FISK.** He was the son of Mr. Nahum Fisk, and born at Holden—1790. A blacksmith by trade. Married to the daughter of Ethan Davis, Esq., and soon after her death, he engaged as a lay-missionary among the Choctaw Indians. He arrived at Elliot, Aug., 1819, and 1820. In his will, he bequeathed about \$800 00 to the American Board.

**MRS. GOODELL,** (Abigail P. Davis,) daughter of Lemuel Davis, Esq., and grand-daughter of the first minister, was born at Holden, April 16, 1800. She was married to the Rev. William Goodell, a graduate of D. C., 1817, Andover T. S. 1820. They embarked Dec. 9, 1822, from New York, for the Syrian Mission, under the patronage of the American B. C. F. Missions. Beyroot became the scene of their labors, where they remained some years. From thence they removed to Malta, on the Island of Cyprus; but since the year 1831, they have been stationed at Constantinople.

**MRS. GROUT,** (Hannah Davis,) daughter of Ethan Davis, Esq., was born at Holden, Feb. 26, 1805. In early life her mind was impressed with the importance of personal religion. Her connection with the church in Holden, commenced when she was quite young. In addition to the advantages of schools in her native place, she was for a number of months under the instruction of the excellent Mrs. Fiske, of Keene, N. H., and completed her studies preparatory for the missionary work, at Ipswich Female Seminary. She was married to the Rev. Aldin Grout, a graduate of Amherst College, 1831, and Andover T. S. 1834. They embarked at Boston, Dec. 3, 1834, for a Station about to be established among a native tribe of Africans, called the Zulu, living in the south-eastern part of the Continent. They arrived at Cape

Town, Feb. 5, 1835, and at Port Natal, May 21, 1836. Mrs. Grout died at Port Elizabeth, Feb. 24, 1836. One year and nineteen days after her arrival in the country.

MRS. GROUT, (Charlotte Bailey.) She is the daughter of Mr. James Bailey, and was married to the Rev. Aldin Grout, a few months after his return from Africa, to the U. S., in consequence of wars among the Zulu people. They embarked for Africa, March, 1840, to engage in missionary labors, among the same tribes.

MR. EDWARD BAILEY, son of Mr. James Bailey, was born at Holden, Feb. 24, 1814. He was married to Miss CAROLINE HUBBARD, daughter of Mr. Jonas Hubbard. She was born at Holden, August 13, 1814. They embarked from Boston for the Sandwich Islands, December 14, 1836. Now engaged in Missionary pursuits at the Islands.

MRS. EELLS, (Myra Fairbanks,) daughter of Deacon Joshua Fairbanks, was born at Holden, May 25, 1805. She was married to the Rev. Cushing Eells, a native of Blanford, Ms., and graduate of Williams College, 1834, and East Windsor Theological Seminary, 1837. They left New York, March 19, 1838, for a missionary station, supported by the American Board, among the Flat Head Indians, living beyond the Rocky Mountains. Their journey was mostly performed, after leaving Saint Louis, in company with a Caravan, which travelled for trading purposes among the Indians. Mr. and Mrs. Eells arrived safely at their station, Aug. 29, 1838, where they are now engaged in their missionary labors.

MRS. GODDARD, (Eliza Ann Abbott.) She is the daughter of Mr. Asa Abbott, and was married to the Rev. Mr. Goddard, a Missionary to China, under the patronage of the American Baptist Board of Missions.

## POST-MASTERS.

[THE POST-OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED—1813 OR '14.]

Benjamin Davis,  
Lemuel Davis,  
Merrill Davis,

Dennis Davis,  
Charles Chaffin.

## PHYSICIANS.

A half century had nearly passed before a Physician became permanently located in Town. A biographical sketch of the first was given in the address, page 60.

The following inscription is taken from his grave-stone.

This Stone  
Marks the Spot  
where rests the mortal  
part of  
**DOCT. ISAAC CHENERY,**  
who departed this life,  
Oct. 20, 1822,  
Aged 80.

“ In the cold mansion of the silent tomb,  
How still the solitude, how deep the gloom ;  
Here sleeps the flesh unconscious, close, confined,  
But far, far distant dwells the immortal mind.”

NOTE. Soon after Doct. C.'s settlement in Holden, he married Miss Susannah Pierce, of Worcester. They had seven sons and three daughters. Their grand-children, *now* number 43—g. g. children, 44—g. g. child, 1; in all, 98 descendants.

**THADDEUS CHENERY.** Son of Isaac Chenery, was born, Holden, April 27, 1769. He practiced a short time with his father, after becoming a member of the profession, but soon removed to Boylston, where he remained (excepting six years at Lancaster,) until a few months subsequent to the death of his father, 1822. He then returned to the late residence of his father, where he continued to

reside until 1840; and he is now living in the centre of the town. The whole period of his practice has been about forty years. He married Polly Dodd. Their children are, Wm. D., Cyrus, Jno. A., Mary, Nancy J., and Lucy Ann.

**MOSES WHEELER.** A native of the town. Not known how long he continued here his practice. Died—, State of New York.

**AARON HOLBROOK.** A native of the town. He practiced some years, and died December 18, 1825, aged 43.

**JOHN SMITH,** and his son **JOHN M. SMITH,** practiced some years in town.

**GEORGE ESTABROOK.** A native of Rutland. This gentleman has resided at two different times in town. He now is living in his native place.

**DAVID DAVIS.** A native of the town, and son of Elnathan Davis. He received his degree at New Haven, 1824. He is now actively engaged here, in the duties of his profession. He spent two years in New York city, between 1833-7, and his practice in Holden has been about fifteen years.

**AARON G. BABCOCK.** A native of Princeton. Commenced practice here, 1830. He subsequently, was a druggist, in Worcester; and is now engaged in the manufacture of calico, Newton, Mass.

**WARREN PARTRIDGE.** Practiced for months in town, and is now living at Princeton, engaged in his professional duties.

**A. G. SKINNER.** Practiced very successfully here, for some months, but now is residing in the *West*.

**AUGUSTUS ROBBINS.** A native of Harvard, M. D. at H. U., is now successfully discharging his professional duties in town. He commenced practice in Holden, June 20, 1837.

**NOTE.** Some other Physicians have *come and gone*.

## MASONRY.

THE WORCESTER COUNTY ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLARS, AND THE APPENDANT ORDERS, was established in Holden, June 24, 1825. An address was delivered upon the occasion by the Rev. Benjamin Wood, Upton. By-Laws, twenty-three in number, were adopted and published.

## ORIGINAL MEMBERS.

Jonas L. Sibley,	Daniel Tenney,
James Estabrook,	George Estabrook,
Lewis Thayer,	David Davis,
Samuel Stratton,	Jacob Wood,
Orin Dalrimple,	Joel Nurse,
Elisha Andrews,	Manasseh Willard,
Jacob Frieze,	Adin Ballou.

The meetings of the Masonic Fraternity were, for some years held in the Hall of the Abbott Hotel. Numerous *relics* and *papers* are now deposited in the garret of the same house. The neglect into which the subject has fallen for some years past, would lead to the conclusion that the Rev. Mr. Wood and his Masonic Friends, are now *practically* adopting an opinion advanced in his address. "For myself, I am ready to declare, in this public manner, that did I believe there was any thing in the principles of Masonry, incompatible with the high and holy vocation of a Christian Minister, or any thing which had the least tendency to weaken or destroy the faith once delivered to the saints, I would openly and immediately renounce the order, and *throw its badges to the moles and to the bats!*" [See Page 6.]

## MILITARY AFFAIRS.

In the early records of the town, constant references appear relating to militia affairs. The citizens were often called to make practical exhibitions of their patriotism and bravery in their country's service. The town, May 4, 1744, "Voted the sum of £30, to provide powder and bullets, and flints for town-stock."

The following list of militia men, must have been made at an early period, although it was accompanied by no date.

## OFFICERS.

Capt. John Biglo,	Sergeant, Bezaleel Fisk,
Lieut. Cyprian Stevens,	" Samuel Hubbard.
Ensign, Sam'l Heywood,	" John Childs,
Corp. Joseph Greenwood,	" Amos Heywood,
" Jonathan Rice,	

## PRIVATES.

Samuel Thompson,	John Johnson,	H Thompson,
Wm Clark,	William Harris,	Abra Black,
Jonathan Lovell,	Charles Heywood,	Nathaniel Stearns,
Jotham Biglo,	Benj Mead,	Jonathan Wheeler,
James Grey,	Jonas Parker,	Moses Wheeler,
Joseph Woolley,	Amos Parker,	Isaac Wheeler,
Phinehas Bennett,	Elisha Parker,	David Fiske,
Silas Bennett,	Andrew Smith,	Robert Wilson,
Phinehas Ball,	Josiah Broad,	John Shelton,
Wm Nickols jr,	Josiah Cheney,	Eph Stevens,
Thomas McMullen,	Will Cowden,	O Davis
David Brown,	Saml Cowden,	Jonas Gray,
Jonas Read,	Will Thompson,	Peter Nutton,
Elisha Harrington,	Joseph French,	Robert Cowden,
Isaac Smith,	Joshua Nickols,	

In tracing the history of the town to the close of the 18th century, the writer made repeated allusions to the military spirit of its inhabitants. The same feeling has since been cherished.

About the close of the last war, it was exhibited in the organization of a Grenadier Company. This company for more than 20 years, took a high rank upon all occasions of military parade. Its Officers and Privates were willing to make great sacrifices of their time, exer-

tions, and money, to maintain its honor and respectability.

The following, comprises a full list of all its members, from 1816 to 1837.

1816.	Samuel Chickering,	Curtis Knowlton,
†Jervis Abbott,	Royal H. Chaffin,	Oren Flagg,
Amasa Boyden,	Daniel Knowlton, jun.,	Moses G. Allen,
**Wm Drury Jr,	Joseph Crosby,	Nathan Rogers, jun.,
David Fisk,	Simon Black,	Moses Newell,
§Thomas Jones Davis,	Stilman Howe,	Warren Davis,
Seth Clapp, Jr.,	1818.	William Bassett,
Leonard Fisk,	David Partridge,	1824.
Jotham Bigelow,	§Dennis Davis,	John L. Davis,
Warren Flagg,	Artemas White,	Newman Allen,
John Rogers, 2d,	John Buss,	William Kendall,
Samuel Dunton,	1819.	†Stilman Estabrook,
John Keyes,	†Samuel Stratton, jun.,	Abner Perry jun.,
Simon Chaffin,	Benjamin Pierce,	1825.
*Thomas Davis, jun.,	††Jason Mann,	Baylies Upham,
Cyrus Dryden,	Elisha Bartlett,	Alonzo L. Ware,
Samuel Munroe,	Thomas Jefferson Davis,	Moses Smith,
Walter Lee,	§Daniel Hubbard,	Leonard Fales,
Luther Goddard,	Caleb Rogers,	William Davis,
Silas Flagg,	1820.	Nahum Howe,
Joel Howe,	John Spring,	Samuel D. Darling,
Leonard Fales,	**Abel Drury,	Elnathan Davis,
Simon Hubbard,	Samuel D. Greenwood,	§Caleb Kendall, jun.,
Chauncey Rugg,	Charles B. Maynard,	Benjamin T. Southwick,
Jonathan Chaffin,	Ebenezer R. Perry,	Nathaniel Sibley,
Joseph Howard, jun.,	George W. Perry,	1826.
David Clapp,	1821.	†Joab S. Holt,
David Winch,	William Flagg,	John Richardson,
Jacob Howard,	Emerson Hubbard,	James Bacon,
1817.	Lyman Bryant,	Philo Smith,
Luther Nash,	Gardner Davis,	John L. Hewet,
Micah Holbrook,	Jonathan Munroe,	Rufus F. Bacon,
Daniel Rogers,	Addison Davis,	Elias B. Flagg,
David Hoyt,	Oliver Stone,	Jeremiah Knowlton,
§John P. Maynard,	Joseph Parminster,	Jason Knowlton,
James Maddecks,	William Mathews,	Hollis Ball,
Amos Adams,	Joel Davis,	Abner Rogers,
Leonard Chenery,	1822.	David Fisk, 2d,
†Chenery Abbott,	Daniel Knowlton, jun.,	Joseph D. Fuller,
John Fales,	Addison Arnold,	1827.
Abraham Goddard,	Mezekiah Bent,	Harrison Bixby,
Joseph White,	John E. Willington,	Albert M. Bartlett,
†Merrill Davis,	Charles Goodnow,	Alfred P. Bartlett,
**Jones Estabrook,	William Kendall,	Stilman Hubbard,
Nathan Goodell,	David Davis,	Moses Winn,
Joseph Barbour,	Henry Goulding,	Silas Dodd,
Rufus P. Fuller,	Samuel A. Wheeler,	Francis Davis,
§Sparrow Crosby, jun.,	1823.	Samuel Temple,
David Cook,	Joseph Davis,	Edmund Johnson,



Edward Richardson,  
Silas Smith,  
Asa Holbrook,  
Caleb S. Fisk,  
1828.

Amos H. Newell,  
Peter S. Winn,  
Gilman Darling,  
Elisha Tucker,  
Prescott B. Albee,  
1829.

Daniel F. Hubbard,  
Joseph Fisk,  
Simon G. Harrington,  
William Rogers,  
Dwight F. Eager,  
Aaron Newell,  
1830.

Horace Nichols,  
Charles Hubbard,  
Lemuel Fisk, jun.,  
John E. Smith,  
\*\*Ethan Davis, jun.,  
James Hastings,  
Simon Howe,  
Charles A. Barber,  
1831.

Caleb G. Howe,  
Sparrow C. Myrick,  
Samuel B. Hubbard,  
§Austin Estabrook,  
John Coleigh,  
Simon Goodale,  
Marshall P. Robinson,  
Charles Ball,  
Joseph B. Hubbard,

William G. Parker,  
George Hastings,  
Austin Flagg,  
1832.

Edward Bailey,  
Almon Samson,  
William T. Watson,  
Dexter Muzzy,  
Alfred F. Hastings,  
Marshall Hastings,  
Squire Slocumb,  
William Howe,  
Oliver C. Fairbank,  
George Thomas,  
Levi Morgan,  
1833.

Samuel Carpenter,  
John Stone,  
Moses L. Darling,  
\*\*Ebenezer Estabrook,  
Otis Smith,  
Benjamin Sawyer,  
Calvin D. Davis,  
††James Kendall,  
William J. Stratton,  
James Rawson,  
1834.

Charles Wood,  
George Dryden,  
Daniel Willington,  
Simon Crosby,  
Silas Barbour, jun.,  
John M. Hubbard,  
George Cheney,  
\*\*George Knowlton,  
William Willington,

John F. Smith,  
Elijah Wheelock,  
Lothrop Dormon,  
Gilbert Wheelock,  
John B. Watson,  
1835.

Merrick H. Houghton,  
Nahum Newell,  
Joseph Bassett,  
Caleb K. Sawyer,  
Ezra Sawyer,  
Samuel Black,  
William B. Wright,  
Eli Darling,  
William Howe,  
Hendrick G. Smith,  
1836.

Ebenezer W. Howe,  
Charles Roper,  
David C. Smith,  
Samuel Denny Hubbard,  
†Isaac Damon,  
Danford Hall,  
Elisha Newell,  
James W. Rogers,  
\*\*John Boyden,  
Beriah W. Hyde,  
William W. Dodd,  
Merrill Abbott,  
Samuel Turner, jun.,  
George F. Wood,  
Alex. Loveless,  
Nye Moulton,  
1837.  
James F. Hervey.

NOTE.—A few years since a Light Infantry company was organized from enlistments in Holden and West Boylston. The writer has not had the privilege of perusing the company's records.

\* Promoted to Rank of General ; † do. do. Colonel ; ‡ do. do. Major ; § do. do. Captain ; \*\* do. do. Lieut. ; †† do. do. Ensigns.

## SCHOOLS.

COMMON SCHOOLS. When the citizens of Holden were legally incorporated as a town, the worship of God was

*"First in their noble thoughts and plans ;  
Then, the strong training of their youth."*

"To have a writing and reading school," voted the citizens, assembled May 19, 1741. A century passed. March 15, 1841. In Town-Meeting, it was "voted to raise 800 dollars for schools the ensuing year." "Voted, that it be divided with all other funds from Town or State, as last year, by the Selectmen and Assessors." Each year intervening between 1741 and 1841, witnessed a similar vote. It would appear from the Town records to have become an established method of procedure, to do *as last year*, respecting schools; with this exception, however, the amount of money raised has gradually been augmented with the increase of population.

The Town, during the last few years, has annually expended more than \$1000 for the support of Common Schools. A fund of *about* \$3,400 is held by the town, the interest, (1840—\$202 00,) of which is appropriated for schooling. In addition, the sum of \$54,69, was last year (1840,) received from the State Treasury.

The above-mentioned fund [is principally the avails of Public Lands, granted to the town by original Proprietors. They reserved certain tracts of land as *school lots*.

Statistical account of the Common Schools for 1840.

Number of Districts, 12.

Part of the Town.		No. of Scholars between 3 y. & 21 y.	Appropriations.
No. 1,	Centre,	110	\$176 00
" 2,	Unionville,	125	150 00
" 3,	East Part,	65	94 00
" 4,	Flagg District,	48	79 00
" 5,	Eagleville,	100	152 00

No. 6,	Chaffin District,	55	76 00
" 7,	Walker "	31	55 00
" 8,	West Part,	20	40 00
" 9,	Near John Estabrooks,	48	40 00
" 10,	Near Samuel Brooks,	32	45 70
" 11,	Near Widow Allen,	33	53 04
" 12,	French Woods' Dis.,	64	67 57
		733	1062 67

Average attendance—Summer, 387—Winter, 414.

Number of Scholars between 4 y. and 16 y., 485.

" of Teachers—Summer, 12 Females, 0 Males.

" " Winter, 5 " 9 "

Av. wages per mo., including board, \$11.61, females, \$26.87, males.

" Value board per mo., 6.06, " 8.00, "

Private Schools and schools kept to prolong common schools, 5.

Aggregate number of months, 9.

" Number of scholars, 45.

At an expense to individuals, \$135 00.

The influence exerted by Common School instruction, has been in the highest degree, happy and salutary upon all the citizens of the town. It may confidently be asserted that each individual has personally shared in their enlightening and ennobling blessings.

The instance (if any has existed,) has never come to the knowledge of the writer, that A NATIVE-BORN CITIZEN OF HOLDEN COULD NOT READ AND WRITE.

"I have somewhere read" writes Addison, "of an eminent person, who used in his private offices of devotion to give thanks to Heaven that he was born a Frenchman. I look upon it as a peculiar blessing that I was born an Englishman."\* A Frenchman may give thanks for his National birth-right, and an Englishman regard his as a peculiar blessing; the writer desires ever to cherish unfeigned gratitude for the PECULIAR BLESSING of a birth-place, and a common school education amid the hills of happy New-England; for this reason, among many others—EVERY CHILD HERE, NOT ONLY MAY, BUT DOES. LEARN TO READ AND WRITE.

\*Spectator, No. 135.

**SELECT SCHOOLS.** The interests of education in Holden have not been unaffected by the progress of learning throughout the community. The demand for more school instruction has been met by the people of this place, in the maintenance, a part of the year, of a **SELECT** or **HIGH-SCHOOL**. These schools have with one exception,\* commenced about the first week in September, and continued 11 or 12 weeks. The teacher has usually received the tuition-fees, paying his own expenses. The number of scholars has averaged from 30 to 50.

## LIST OF SELECT-SCHOOL TEACHERS.

1828—Edward P. Humphrey,	A. B.	1828.	A. C.
1829—David Tappan Lane,	"	1829.	"
1830—Philander O. Powers,	"	1830.	"
1831—Aldin Grout,	"	1831.	"
1832—Philander O. Powers,			
1833—William Howe,	"	1834.	Wat. Coll.
1834—Merrill Richardson,	"	1835.	Mid. Coll.
1835—Samuel C. Damon,	"	1836.	A. C.
1836—Miss Martha Paine,			
1837—Rufus Taylor,	"	1837.	A. C.
1838—Rufus Taylor,			
1839—Sabin McKinney,	"	1840.	"
1840—George B. Rowell,	"	1837.	"

**SABBATH SCHOOLS**—have been maintained in both societies from about the year 1820. Schools were at first established in each school district. This practice was sustained but one year, 1819. The Rev. Mr. Goodell, (Missionary at Constantinople,) is regarded as having introduced the system of S. S. Dea. John Lowell was Superintendant of Cong. S. S. from 1822, for 15 years. He was succeeded by Mr. Alonzo Ware, for 3 years. Mr. Allen is the present Superintendant.

---

\* In the spring of 1830, Mr. John Keep, a graduate of A. C., 1829, taught a select school one quarter.

## POPULATION.

THE earliest census of the town was taken—1765.

Number of families, 75: Males under 16 years, 161, above 16 years, 109: Females under 16 years, 116, above 16 years, 107: Negroes, 2. Total, 495.

## CENSUS OF HOLDEN BY FAMILIES, 1773.\*

David Winch	5	John Wineh	9	John Black	5
Elijah Rice	6	Josiah Broad jr	4	Jabez Harrington	11
Masten Holt	5	John Abbott	12	James Cheney	6
Moses Stickney	11	Josiah Stratton	8	Francis Wilson	4
Samuel Grant	6	Jonathan Wheeler	4	Jona Howe	6
Job Colburn†	7	Abel How	3	Ebenezer Melet	5
Wm Nickols	10	Henry Taft	9	Joseph Greenwood	5
John Perry	8	Benjamin Allen	6	Samuel Estabrook	3
John Obens	2	Paul Goodale	5	Charles Heywood	13
Abra How	3	Samuel Chaffin	9	Amos Heywood	9
Asa How	7	Eph Smith	6	Israel Davis	8
Elisha Hubbard	7	William Raymond	7	Josiah Broad	7
Elijah Rice, jr	6	Dea David Fiske	8	Samuel Hubbard jr	8
Peter Hubbard	8	Samuel Heywood	9	Asa Lovel	4
Wm Harris	9	James Dods	3	Peter Noice	2
Elisha Mirrick	8	Rd Flagg	5	Ephraim Holt	5
Aaron Newton	3	Daniel Black	6	Bezaleel Fisk	6
Joseph Morse	10	Benjamin Mead	5	Increase Stearns	9
Samuel Estabrook jr	4	Isaac Bartlett	11	Judah Wright	6
Thomas Grout	5	Isaac Chenery	8	Joseph Davis	5
Andrew Smith	11	Israel Davis jr	7	Thomas Kimball	8
Dea Jos Hubbard	7	Nathaniel Shepherd	3	Stephen White	6
Jonas Gale	11	Jason Gleason	7	Jona Lovell	8
Wm Marshall	7	Peter Goulden	6	Moses Wheeler jr	2
Hezekiah Walker	3	Samuel Hubbard	7	Jeremiah Fuller	5
Seth Snow	7	Joseph Kingsbury	6	David Perry	5
Edmund Hall	4	Noah Haven	3	Jesse Allen	5

1790	-	-	1077
1800	Males, 569,	Females, 573,	1142
1800	-	-	-
1820	Whites, 1400,	Colored, 2,	1402
1830	-	-	1718
1840†	Males under 5 years, 148	Females under 5 years, 121	
	“ between 5—10, 93	“ between 5—10, 92	
	“ “ 10—15, 107	“ “ 10—15, 93	
	“ “ 15—20, 99	“ “ 15—20, 110	
	“ “ 20—30, 170	“ “ 20—30, 218	

\* The above census is again inserted, in consequence of typographical errors, and because this position appears the most proper.

† “ Job Colburn had the widow Newton at his house keeping school, and Daniel Hinds made his home there.”

‡ United States Census, 1840.

Males between 30—40, 123			Females between 30—40, 108		
"	"	40—50, 67	"	"	40—50, 59
"	"	50—60, 68	"	"	50—60, 78
"	"	60—70, 23	"	"	60—70, 31
"	"	70—80, 15	"	"	70—80, 25
"	"	80—90, 11	"	"	80—90, 9
"	"	90—100, 0	"	"	90—100, 1
"	"	100, 1	"	"	100, 0
<hr/>			<hr/>		
929			945—1874		

Five hundred seventy-one persons are engaged in agricultural pursuits, ten in commerce, and one hundred and two in manufactures and trades. No colored persons in town.†

**EMIGRATION.** The native born citizens of Holden, have fully contributed their share to sustain the established character of N. E. people, for going out to seek their fortunes, leaving no state, continent, island, or sea unexplored. It would, perhaps, be as impracticable as impossible to furnish a complete list of all natives of Holden abroad. The compiler will confine himself to a few (small part) now living. Levi Holbrook, graduate of Ver. Uni. 1811, has resided for more than twenty years at Danville, Va. He went out as a school teacher.

John, James, Benjamin and George, sons of John Dodd, Esq., reside in Boston. The first is a merchant, the others are connected with banking. All the Northern and many of the Southern States have representatives from Holden. While many have come from neighboring towns to settle in town, as many have gone to supply their places.

† **DEATHS** during 1840. The following statistics are taken from the Rev. Mr. Paine's New Year's Sermon:

Less than one year, 8.					
Between 1—10, 3		Between 30—40, 5		Between 60—70, 3	
" 10—20, 0		" 40—50, 3		" 70—80, 1	
" 20—30, 3		" 50—60, 3		" 80—90, 4—33	
In January, 4	In March, 3	In May, 2	In July, 2	In September, 2	November, 4
February, 1	April, 2	June, 2	August, 4	October, 4	December, 3
Males, 17		Amount of all their ages, 1126			
Females, 16—33		Average age, 34			

## VALUATIONS.

The first general valuation, was made the year following the adoption of the State Constitution, 1780.

## VALUATION FOR 1781.

167	Polls,			
170	Buildings, valued at £27 per acre,	£4590	0	0
959	Acres of Mowing Tillage,	2632	18	10
493	" Meadow	887	13	0
1579	" Pasturage,	4256	8	1
10,464	" Woodland,	8676	8	0
7	Mills	229	0	0
2828	£ Money on hand and at interest,	848	8	0
NONE	OUNCES OF PLATE.			
106	Horses valued at	742	0	0
287	Oxen,	1435	0	0
400	Cows,	1200	0	0
200	Steers,	300	0	0
1234	Sheep,	371	8	0
248	Swine,	148	16	0
	Grain on hand,			
NONE	CARRIAGES OF ALL SORTS.*			
		£26,881	4	11
		or	\$89,604	15

## LAST GENERAL VALUATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1840.

NUMBER.	Polls,	456
"	Houses,	263
"	Barns,	239
"	Saw-Mills,	13
"	Grist "	5
"	Shingle & Lath do.	6
"	Fulling "	1
"	Carding Machine,	1
"	Cotton Factories,	5
"	Spindles,	6,474
"	Looms,	153
"	Woollen Factories,	2
"	Spindles,	430
"	Looms,	16
"	Tanneries,	2
"	Stores	6
"	Acres Tillage Land,	824
"	Bush. Wheat,	67

\* Rev. Mr. Avery, was among the first, to ride in a chaise, and old people now can remember when there was not a wagon or chaise in town.

Number of bushels	Rye,	1,072
"	Oats,	7,010
"	Corn,	6,466
"	Barley,	50
"	Acres Eng. Mowing,	2,135
"	Tons Hay,	1,649
"	Acres Meadow,	952
"	Tons Hay,	636
"	Acres Pasturage,	7,499
"	" Wood-Land,	4,184
"	" Unimproved Land,	4,655
"	" Unimprovable "	1,310
"	Oxen,	287
"	Cows and Young Cattle,	937
"	Horses,	221
"	Sheep,	347
"	Swine,	318

Whole amount of valuation for 1840, \$576,622.

### MANUFACTURES.

THE history of manufactures may most readily be traced by sketching, separately, that of the different villages.

UNIONVILLE. Messrs. Eleazer Rider & Sons, commenced spinning Cotton Yarn at this place in 1809. These persons had been previously engaged in the same business, at West Boylston. It is stated upon good authority, that they were among the first, (if not the first,) manufacturers of cotton yarn in Worcester County. In 1810 the factory of the Messrs. Riders contained 48 spindles. The same year, the establishment was purchased by Mr. Joshua Bassett and Mr. Farnum White. An addition was then made of 56 spindles. Mr. John Rudman purchased of Bassett and White, in 1814. The factory was sold to Mr. John Slater, 1819. In the following year, repairs and alterations were commenced. In 1821, Mr. John Lees became the owner, who continued to make repairs and additions, during the three following years.

WEAVING BY THE POWER LOOM COMMENCED 1822. In 1824,



Mr. Lees sold 10 bales of Sheeting to Mr. Samuel Parkman, jr., Boston, who shipped the goods to Batavia. It was reported at the time, to have been the first shipment of cotton goods from this country, which passed around Cape Good-Hope.

This manufacturing establishment is now the property of Lees and Eldridge,—contains 1770 spindles, and 36 Looms. 275,000 yards is an average amount of cloth annually manufactured, besides a quantity of batting.

**JEPHERSON'S SATINET FACTORY.** It was built by — Morse, 1825, but is now owned by Mr. John Jepherson. It contains 180 spindles, and 8 looms. During the late "hard times," the proprietor has devoted more attention to agriculture, than to the manufacture of satinet—at a "dead loss."

**NORTHVILLE FACTORY.** It was built by B. T. Southgate, for the manufacture of woollen goods, but was altered by Wm. Buffum, to cottons, in 1827. It contains 40 Looms and 1488 Spindles, and has generally made, with 36 Looms and 1392 Spindles, 250,000 yards of Shirting.

The present owner of the establishment, S. Damon, Esq., 1840, built near by, a small Batting Mill.

**QUINEPOKET VILLAGE.** The Factory in this village, was built by S. Damon, Esq., under contract with Joseph Metcalf and Brother, during the summer of 1831. It has from time to time undergone extensive repairs, and is now owned by the original builder, in company with Nathan Howe. It contains 1400 Spindles, and 40 Looms. 250,000 yards of Sheetings are annually manufactured.

**EAGLEVILLE FACTORY.** Mr. Samuel Clark purchased the Saw and Grist-Mills, of Caleb Kendall, in this village, in 1831. He erected a small Factory the same year, which has since been enlarged to its present dimensions.

It contains 1600 Spindles, and 40 Looms. 275,000 yards of Sheeting are annually manufactured. During the half year ending July 1, 150,000 yards were made.

The business of the establishment is transacted under the name of the "*Eagle Manufacturing Company*."

**DRYDEN'S SATINET FACTORY.** This factory was built by Col. Artemas Dryden. It contains 300 Spindles and 8 looms. The same reason which silenced the spindles of Mr. Jepherson's Satinet Factory, have stopped these, during the last few months.

S. Damon, Esq. is the present owner.

**NOTE.** For many years previous to 1830, Col. Dryden manufactured woollen Carding Machines at this place, which were sold in all parts of New England.

**LOVELL'S FACTORY.** Cotton Batting, and Candle Wick-ing are manufactured at this Factory, by Dea. John Lovell. For many years he has run a Carding Machine for "Custom Work."

#### Summary, Cotton Mills.

Unionville,	Spindles—1790,	Looms—36,	Cloth—275,000 y.
Northville,	" 1892,	" 36,	" 250,000
Quinepoxet,	" 1400,	" 40,	" 250,000
Eagleville,	" 1800,	" 40,	" 275,000
			<hr/> 1,050,000

#### THINGS IN GENERAL.

The following is the copy of Gen. Lafayette's letter to Capt. Webb. [*See Page 48.*]

Milton, May 15, 1781.

Dear Sir.—Your successful scarmish—Has afforded me the greatest pleasure, and I request you will receive yourself, and present to your company, my best thanks on the occasion.

Major Jicks is Requested to exert himself in finding

out the position, size, and number of long boat Helen.—lie either about City point or in the Appamatox river—the taking of these boats is a more desirable object and would produce good effects of a very extensive nature. But I cannot give orders as the capture depends upon the uncertain situation of local circumstances—Should you think it advisable to undertake, precaution must be taken to have your retreat secured at all events.

In case the enterprise is not executed to-night, I wish you will return with your company in the cool of the evening—and if to-night you have any object in view you will repair here to-morrow with the boats.

With the most sincere esteem,

Yours,

Lafayette.

MORE REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS. [*See Page 75.*]

*Micah Harrington,	Ephraim Holt,	Solomon C. Cheney,
*Lemuel Harrington,	John Black,	Constant Webb,
*Nathan Harrington,	Benjamin Mead, jun.,	Asa Greenwood,
*Lemuel Heywood,	†Attai Hubbard,	*Jonathan Flagg,
Samuel Heywood,	Timothy Marshall,	Francis Winch.

**TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.** The constitution of the first Temperance Society in Holden, was adopted, September 15, 1829. The Rev. H. Bardwell and Ethan Davis, Esq. were active in its formation. The 3d article reads as follows: "The members of this Society believing that the use of intoxicating liquors is, for persons in health, not only unnecessary, but hurtful, and that the practice is the cause of forming intemperate habits and appetites, that while it is continued, the evils of intemperance can

\* Continental Soldiers ; † Died in the Army.

never be prevented ; do therefore agree, that we will abstain from the use of distilled spirits, except as a medicine, in case of bodily infirmity, and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance the use of them in the community."

*"If, however, individuals shall deem it necessary to make any use of ardent spirits, they shall report the same at the annual meetings of the Society."*

When the friends of Temperance made the above agreement, behind them they could see, with Bunyan's Pilgrim, the city of *Destruction*, and the Slough of Despond. Hill of *Difficulty*, however, was in full prospect before them. For 12 long years they have been struggling up that hill, undismayed by the difficulties of the way. About two or three years since, they caught a glimpse of the *Delectable Mountains*, "beautified with woods, vineyards, fruits of all sorts, flowers also, with *springs* and *fountains*, very delectable to behold." When the Temperance Pilgrims had advanced thus far, they commenced a discussion respecting total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks. "They went then until they came to the Delectable Mountains, so they went up to the mountains, to behold the gardens, and orchards, the vineyards and FOUNTAINS OF WATER, where also they drank and washed themselves, and did freely eat, [not drink,] of the vineyards."

From a peak of one of the Delectable Mountains, a flag is seen waving in the breeze, and upon its folds are inscribed,

"WASHINGTON TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY."

1841.

Pilgrims are daily arriving.

13\*

## NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

**T**HAT their is to be sold at Public Auction on the Last Wednesday of this Instant at two o'clock P.M. at the House of Lem'l Abbot in Holden that Noted House in Said Town Known by the Name of the Old Publick Meeting House ; their is a variety of Excellent Board, no doubt, and a Large assortment of fine Timber, which the purchaser may make Large improvements upon besides Some Glass and Nails all which will be Sold together or in Separate Lots as will best accommodate the purchaser or purchasers, the Conditions of Sale will be made Known at the time and place above mentioned.

JAMES DAVIS  
EBEN'R ESTABROOK } Committee  
PAUL GOODALE } 4

March ye 16th 1791

N. B. Notice is hereby given to all persons that have any Demand, on Said House as private property ; they are Desired to Remove the Same before Said Day as no allowance will be made to any Person by the Town that Shall Neglect the Same.

To Mr Joseph Hubbard Treasurer for the town of Holden Sir Pursuant to an order from the Select Men of this town to you to pay unto us the money due for teaching the School these are therefore to desire you to pay unto John Young the Sum of three pounds twelve Shillings lawful money of this Province and his Receipt Shall be your discharge for So much given under hand this 2d day of May 1753.

John Biglo  
Samuel Hubbard } Com'tee For The  
Israel Davis } Town of Holden  
for the School

To Mr Joseph Hubbard Treasurer for the Town of Holden Sir Pursuant to an order from the School Committee of this town to you to pay me the Sum of three pounds twelve Shillings these are therefore to desire you to pay Lieut Syprian Stevens the sum of eight Shillings lawf money of this provance and for your So doing this shall be your Security or discharge for so much given under my hand at Holden May ye 3d—1753.

John Young

These are to Certify whom it may concern that when I kept School at Lieut Steven's in Holden my wages was one pound four Shillings pr month for three months which was three pounds twelve Shillings in all of which Mr Jotham Biglo paid me two pounds given under my hand this 12th of Nov'br 1756

John Young

Holden February 11th. A. D. 1752. To mr Isariel Daives Treasurer for ye Town of Holden ye present year Sir Plese to pay Saml. Peirce ye sum of Eight Shillings Due to him for takeing care of ye meeting-honse this present year and his endorsement shall be your Discharge for so much in makeing up your accompts for ye Twenty five pounds now in ye hands of mr. James Gray—Constable for this year

John Biglo } Select-men  
Samuel Heywood } of. Holden

To mr Benj. Mead Constable Sir please to pay to Ithimer Goodenew too.  
Shilling and eight pence Lawful money for a Wild Cat head and is Endorse.  
Shall be your discharge for so much from Joseph Hubbard Town  
Des. the 13 1754 Treasurer

Holden Janew.y 15th 1754

To Mr. Benjemen Mead Constable Sir pleas to pay to Decon Sam.ll.  
Pearce the Sume of Eight Shillings for Taking Care of the Meeting House  
in the year one Thousand Seven Hundred and fifty Three and his Endorse  
Shall be your Discharge for so much in making up your aCout.  
Joseph Hubbard Town Treasurer

Rec,d of Jona. Rice the Sum of Eight Shillings in full of the assessment.  
made by the Towns Committee for the Raising men to Serve in the Continental  
Army for Three years or During the War

David Fisk } Chairman of the Committee

Holden April ye 14th 1777

the account of the hiway work in year 1751 Jonathan Lowvel 7 days and  
a half Samuel benet 3 days Ephram benet 2 days and a half phinnias benet  
2 days Josieah cheene 3 days phinnias Coll 2 days and a third part of a day.  
Joseph french 2 days and too thirds of a day William Flagg 2 days and a  
half William Flagg Surveair

To mr Joseph Hubbud Town Trasuror  
to pay to paul Raymond the Sum of fiv  
and four pence for two grown Bares Whelps  
Endorse Shall be your Discharge for So mu  
ye account, Holden Feberarey the Tenth

John Eiglo  
Richard Fla  
Israel Davis

[A part of this order is lost.]

This is to Sertiefys the Select men Cunstable & Town Treasurer that we  
whose names are hear mentioned have worked out our Rates According to  
Town Vote and hear is the names and the Sume worked By us

	S	D	Q
Dee.c Samuel Peirce	9	10	1
Joseph Rugg	9	05	1
Moses Wheler	6	06	2
Jonathan Rice	7	10	2

This List is Directed to the Select men Cunstable & Town Treasurer of this  
Town of Holden given under my hand this first Day of October. 1750

Jonathan Rice Survaour of Highways

The following correspondence passed between the Rev. Mr. Avery and two of his parishioners. It confirms statements upon 56th page of the address. 1. In reference to existing prejudices against instrumental Chh. Music; and 2. The mild and conciliatory manner of the Rev. Mr. Avery. Some may have thought him mild to a fault—but like the Country Parson, beautifully described by Goldsmith,

“And ev’n his failings lean’d to virtue’s side.”

Holden, Jan. y 2d. 1790.

Dear Sirs—We are not insensible that true benevolence is a mark of the Christian, & the glory of the christian character, & as this divine principle awakens the sincerest wishes, in those that possess it, for the happiness of men in general, so especially for those they stand in particular relation to. This principle we would wish to cherish, & feel its happy influence. How then can we find, without concern that two of our Brethren, whom we loved and respected, have withdrawn from our communion? Were we conscious of a wilful departure from the line of duty that had occasion’d this, we should charge ourselves as highly culpable, & consider the call to penitence as loud & pressing. But tho’ we have done nothing designedly to offend our Brethren; we must still feel a sorrow, that they should think themselves justified in deserting our communion; & we should esteem it a happiness, if we could now suggest any thing to influence them to a cordial return thereto. Here then we add that we presume the Church as such cannot be justly charg’d with acting inconsistent with rule and order. True it is, that they have voted *one* thing as to the mode of singing in the Congregation at one time, & something different at another; But have not publick bodies of Christians an undoubted right to do this if they think it wise and best. The Church as a body wished to have found you gratified and pleased; but they would not wisely go counter to what was the sentiment of the majority. & shall this circumstance separate us on earth, when we are, or ought to be *all* bound to the heavenly world? Is it not best to strive after union in the great essentials of religion, and to be candid and forbearing as to lesser matters. Let us suppose then now for a moment, that in the true spirit of candor you were returned, and stately and cheerfully attended with us, that when the mere musick of the voice was not so pleasing as you could wish, that then your minds were deeply fixed on the great and interesting truths contain’d in the sacred psalm or hymn, and your souls were rising in secret harmony to God on the wings of faith and love. Would you not reflect on such opportunities afterward, with the sincerest pleasure, and regard them as far from being lost? and would not this be some satisfaction that your example invited others to the house of God, and table of Christ? We hope you feel a solicitude for the interests of Religion, and how can we expect these to flourish if we neglect the publick worship, and ordinances of God? Let it then be our united prayer that the great adversary of souls, who delights to sow disoord among Brethren, may not prevail against us. Our Stay together on earth is short, and transient indeed; Let us away then with coldness, estrangement, and disaffection, put on as the elect of God, bowels of mercy, tenderness and humbleness of mind, and the Lord conduct us all

safely to that place, where imperfection, error, and human frailty are forever at an end and where we may with infinite satisfaction harmonise in Songs of praise to him that sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb forever.

The Church was stopt on this day and it appeared that they were desirous that the above should be sent to Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

N. B. the Chh. would wish that if they have any thing to object/against any individual of the Church they would converse with them and endeavor to satisfy themselves.

Holden, Jan'y. 11th 1791.

Rev'd Sir—I Rec'd sumthing from sum person, and take it to be from your Self, but Do Not Know by your Signing because there is no name to it: it bears Date January ye 2d, 1790, whether it is threw mistake or Designedly i know not: on first consideration I thought to take no Notice of it: but on a second consideration I thought I would: The Letter which I received, seems to set forth that true benevolence is the mark and the glory of the sincerest wishes in those that possess it: to which I answer and say all that is very good: and Not to say any thing further on true Christian benevolence and charity towards our Brethren. I am Charged with Deserting the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and signify without any just cause: hear I might add that it is suggested, the Church have Voted sumthing Different at one time to what they did at another and supposed it would have been satisfactory to me, but what you grounded your hope upon I Can not Conceive of: the mode of singing which is so much offensive to me, that I cannot Glorify God, nor be Edified myself: and further the Church have gon Contrary to the Covenant owned be Every Brother of the Church: in the Covenant are these words promising Carefully to avoid all sinful stumbling Blocks and Contentions to metion no more on the Covenant: the mere musick as you Call It, is the Block in my way, as your Self and the Church are Sensable of: this mere Music has No melody at all in it: and further I would wish to se the Carrecter Discribed in the Letter subscribed to Mr \_\_\_\_\_ and my self truly and faithfully observed, and Not Lord it over any ones Conscience: I answer for my Self and No other. Rev'd Sir I could with all freedom Discorse with you on these matters if you will come to my House, as my wife and one of my Daughters are Not able to attend the publick worship, they seem very Desirous that you should pay them a visit, and if you please, preach a Lecture on there Desire.

Holden, Jan'y 15, 1791.

Dear Sir—I received a line from you of the 11th of Jan'y, 1791, and by this I was sorry to learn, that there were some mistakes in a line lately sent to you and Mr S——. It should have bore date Jan'y 2d, 1791, and I meant to have informed you in my own name that it was the general desire of those of the Church, that were at meeting on that day, that what was contained in that letter should be sent to you and Mr S——, as coming from them. It has been matter of pain to me to find your seat and that of Mr. S—— vacant at our communion. I have done nothing personally and designedly inconsistent with the most tender solicitude for your truest interest. Your edification and improvement is an object of my sincere desire: Bat at the same time, I must freely and honestly, say that I cannot think in some respects as you do: Supposing the greater part of the Church, had thought



with you as to the singing, chosen the tunes that you like best, and to have the psalm read as is most agreeable to you; that some of the Church had complained, and said that they would not be edified by such singing, and that it was laying a stumbling block before them to sing after that sort, would you believe it was, and in order to please them, would you be willing to lay aside the singing that was agreeable to you. I presume that you would not, and still that you would think that they ought not, on this account to forsake the communion of the Church. If the musick was as disagreeable to me as to you, I persuade myself that I could, notwithstanding, find edification in the house of God, I could resolve to have my mind raised above the mere sound of the voice, and let the great truths of the psalm or hymn engross my attention. If the music is ever so agreeable to my ear, yet if I pay no regard to the truths that are sung, I am not edified as I ought. The main thing is to have the heart in tune, rightly impressed and influenced. Why should we let the mere voice, if not agreeable, destroy our devotions, and prevent our edification. I wish Sir, to have your mind, and my own above being discomposed by small things. And that we, and others might walk together in the unity of the spirit, and bond of peace. I am persuaded that if you would overlook, forget, or rise above things that have been or are disagreeable to you, you would find more satisfaction in it, than you can in suffering things to chaff your mind so as to keep you from the House of God. As to lording it over your conscience, or any man's, I trust I have not the most distant wish for it. What I desire and pray for is the edification of the Church in general. It has been the bane of Christians in various ages to disagree about the circumstantialia of Religion. Every member of a Church has a right to use every fair argument in order to have things agreeable to his mind; but is it not more noble and Christianlike to deny ourselves of some things to prevent a division of the Church than to be so strenuous as to break off it, because every thing is not agreeable. Good men may differ in sentiment, Paul and Barnabas did, but difference in judgment should not destroy mutual love. The Church in general, sincerely wish that you and Mr S—— could see things in a different light. "You subscribe yourself a distressed Brother." I truly wish you relief and comfort, a serene old age, and at the close of it, a peaceful departure of life to a better world. I can sympathize with you in your afflictions by reason of ye sickness and weakness of some of your family, and am sorry that other troubles should be added to these, and I give as the sober sentiment of my heart, that if you would overcome that aversion you have to some things in the house of God, and could find your heart reconciled to a cheerful attendance on the duties of God's house, that you would rejoice in it hereafter as a real happiness. I will endeavor to preach a Lecture at your house on thursday next, at one o'clock in the Afternoon, and to come to your house in the forenoon.

I am with all sincerity and friendship,

Yours, &c.,

JOSEPH AVERY.

## ERRATA.

- Page 49, line 26, for 'Bennett,' read 'Amos Howard, jr.'
- " 50, line 5, for '6s 6d,' read '1s 6d,'
- " 52, line 9, after 'inhabitants' insert 'of this town,'
- " 61, line 11, for 'any blessings,' read 'Heaven's blessings,' (some copies correct.)
- " 72, line 27, for 'Inman,' read 'Sumner.'
- " 95, line 1, for '87' read '88;'; line 2, insert 'Paul' Goodale, 1781—87;' line 18, read '1801—5.'
- " 96, line 10, read 'Thomas J. Davis, 1826, 34, 35, 36, 40, 41;' line 13, for '1822' read '1827.'
- " 98, line 7, for '1783' read '1793;' line 8, for '34' read '24;,'
- " 99, for line 13, insert 'Samuel Damon, 1807.'
- " 100, line 16, for '1831' read '1836.'
- " 143, line 20, after 'banking' insert 'institutions.'









**HOME USE  
CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT  
MAIN LIBRARY**

This book is due on the last date stamped below.  
1-month loans may be renewed by calling 642-3405.  
6-month loans may be recharged by bringing books  
to Circulation Desk.  
Renewals and recharges may be made 4 days prior  
to due date.

**ALL BOOKS ARE SUBJECT TO RECALL 7 DAYS  
AFTER DATE CHECKED OUT.**

JUN 8 1975 3 2

REC. CIR. NOV 1 9 75

LD21—A-40m-12,'74  
(S2700L)

General Library  
University of California  
Berkeley

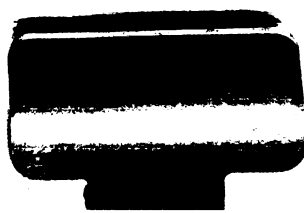
M272171  
Damon, S. C.  
The history of Holden,  
Massachusetts

F74  
H57D2

M272171

F74  
H57D2

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY



L-2037

Digitized by Google





